## **Chapter 97**

Erin rushes out, her hear beat running a thousand miles at the same time. The pack will be attacked in seconds by Dimitri and his troops.

"Luna!" Dylan yells out her name, she turns to see the man looking at her with hundreds of their warriors. Their eyes hopeful and waiting for orders from her. That's right, she leads the pack now.

Erin looks around, her shoulders shaking slightly.

"Let them loose." She screams just as the barriers into the pack is breached, roars and howls could be heard, the ground thundering with each of their feet stomping into the pack.

It happened. A second after she screamed for everyone to be let loose, a spear is thrown right at a guard, piercing through his chest, blood dripping out of his chest as he fell to the ground with a loud thud.

"Attack and defend your pack!" Alex yelled with all of his might at the first attack. The screech, horrific howls and screams gutted Erin out, Dimitri has gone all out, his warriors were hundreds and hundreds, two times more than theirs, nothing like Erin had ever seen. This is what happens when you've been secretly killing an taking over packs, you start nurturing them from young and grow them to be monsters.

Erin couldn't move, gripped with fear as she watches her pack members fight with all they got. Their best warrior were at the fore front, giving it all they've got. Erin grabbed the knife she's kept with her all through, twisting the knife in her hands as she looked around. Bodies dropped like flies, blood streamed like water and yet the man of honor wasn't there.

Dimitri.

"Luna! Run!" A panicked voice yells at her and before she could react, she's confronted with a man, from the dark hideous scar on his wrist, it's obvious he's from Dimitri. He grins at Erin, his face smudged with blood and mud, axe dripping with blood like slime.

"It's the Luna." He grunts out, his chest heaving heavily as he spoke. Erin swallowed harshly, her grip on the knife tightening even more. She looked around but this is it, no one is here to magically save her. No Derrick and certainly no Liam. She's alone and has to fight for her life just like she's told the pack members over and over again.

"Dimitri would be so pleased with me. I wonder how much he'll give me when he sees the meat I brought him." The man says crudely, taking a step towards Erin, a lousy smirk on his face s his eyes trailed her body like some cheap meat on the butcher's table.

"You're coming with me, unarmed if you want." He points out, shrugging and then reaches out to grab her by the arm but she's quick to it. She kicks the man in the cock hard and fast as she could, watching the man drop to the floor instantly in pain, his open mouth as he screamed, curses falling out of his mouth. Erin doesn't waste a second, she holds out her knife and stab the man right in the neck before he could say Jack.

She turns and runs towards the hall where the women and children have been kept. She rounds up at the door, knocking as fast as she could. The area was protected the some guards holding down the fort down.

"Luna." They say in unison on seeing her. Erin heaved deeply. There's no way they would survive out there with those beasts Dimitri brought.

"It's time." She orders, not saying a word more. The guards nod in understanding., just as the other was opened. Amelia's worried face is the first thing she sees.

"Goddess Erin, I've been so-" Erin doesn't let her finish her words, she looks at the guards, granting them permission. Earlier they had hid every other supplement

they might need if the fight goes on for longer and from what Erin saw out there, Dimitri would ruin them before anything.

"We have to work together. It is time." She says just as they began to pass the buckets out. They kept everything they could in here, thinking it was the best place to hid them.

"Light them on fire and let them burn." Erin gritted out, eyes bitter and full with hatred.

"Erin!" Amelia stuttered out, her heart pounding hard in her chest.

"You all have to keep hiding here and use every means to fight if it ever comes to that." She tells Amelia and the others.

Vanessa looks at her, her eyes filled with unshed tears. "We will stay and fight for our lives." She tells Erin who nods. Erin walks towards the safe she has kept hidden along side the woods and kerosene she had stored in the hall, bending down and opening the safe just as the guards continue to carry them out. She dips her hand into the safe and takes it out, it's tiny but should serve its purpose if it ever came to that.

"What's that Erin?" Amelia's voice comes bringing her out of her thoughts. Erin swallows harshly, slipping the small bottle into her pocket safely.

"Nothing. Stay here and make sure you're safe." She tells her, her eyes flicking to the cross of women and children siting and cowering in fear from the noise outside. Her eyes falls on Ana who was huddled in clothes bigger than her, fear evident in the pups eyes.

"Where are you going?" Vanessa asks, seeing Erin move to walk out the room.

"I'll be right back." She says and walks out, shutting the door close.

"Protect them with everything you've got." She instructs, watching the other guards pour oil and kerosene down.

"S-shouldn't you be here, Luna. It's not safe." The head guard tells her. Erin shakes her head. She still hasn't seen Dimitri and it's sure, Dimitri wouldn't send his troops here alone. He's here, somewhere.

"I'll be right back." She says again, rushing off to the other place she can think of.

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A gasp escaped her lips as soon as she gets there, outside of his room were the guards she has placed outside his room on their back, their blood seeping out, dead, brutally so. Erin looks at the door which was closed, her body shaking with fear. Fear for Derrick's life.

She steps over the bodies, reaching for the door knob and opens it slowly, her heart stuck in her throat, she could feel it at that moment.

She stepped into the room and breathes in relief. He is still there, unconscious but still there.

She shuts the door close, attempting to walk over to the bed when she heard it. When she heard him.

"I knew you'd come. You're just as smart as Maxwell described." Erin freezes, every cell in her body coming to a halt at the sound of the unfamiliar yet familiar voice. She slowly turns around and there he was. Leaning against the wall, looking calm and relaxed like he doesn't have hundreds of people killing themselves ruthlessly.

"It's you." She gritted out, disgust dripping out of her voice. He could hear it, the disdain, the anger, the fear. He could even taste all of it.

"You're right. It's me. Dimitri in flesh and blood. You're the infamous Luna Erin, the same one whose name has been flying and making its way around everyone's lips now." He cocks an eyebrow up, a smirk on his lips as his eyes raked all over her."

"You're prepared." He mentions casually, seeing the blood-stained knife in her hands.

Erin's knuckles whitened as she clutched the blood-stained knife tightly. She kept her distance from Dimitri, her eyes never leaving him, her fear mingling with the anger that churned within her.

Dimitri's smile widened, and he pushed himself off the wall, taking a step closer. He moved with an eerie grace, almost gliding through the room as if he were an untamed predator, confident in his control of the situation.

"Ah the Luna with a defiant spirit." Dimitri purred, his voice dripping with condescension. "I've been looking forward to this moment, Erin."

"Take your animals back with you and leave our pack." She grits out bitterly.

"Animals? He tilts his head sideways as though offended by her choice of words.

"Our pack? Did you forget, you're a member of, well, not this pack." He shrugs.

"What do you want, Dimitri?" Erin asks, ignoring what he was insinuating just as he smirked.

"Your pack. I want every pack we are in. Surrender to me and I'll let the rest of you live. It's simple and easy, you know. How long do you think they'll fight for? My warriors outnumber them tremendously and with every person that dies from your pack means I'll be closer to getting this pack. Do the smart thing here and surrender easily, don't make your people suffer needlessly."

His eyes flicker back to Derrick laying unconsciously on the bed, his eyebrows cocked up. "Are you thinking about him?" He asks, gesturing at Derrick.

"He won't wake up. He's gone! The responsibility of the pack lays in your hands and now is your time to utilize it. Make the right decision and you will live. You have a pup, you and healthy, ain't she? Think about her when you make your decision. Think about the hundreds in that hall you think I don't know about. Ther lives are all in your hands and if you make the tiniest mistake int this, their lives will be wasted in seconds. You're a smart lady."

He sighed as he massaged the bridge of his nose. "You give me what I want, and I spare the lives of your pack members. I'm not a heartless monster, Erin." Dimitri said, his voice graining more serious with every ticking second.

Erin looks back at Derrick, the cries of her people reaching her ears, the screams and howls of them reaching her heart. A tear falls to her cheek. She looks back at Dimitri whose lips lifted in a hint of a smile.

"This pack is my life. It's our life. Who are we without a pack? No one! That is. We are our pack. Each and everyone fighting to stay alive and be in this pack are the pack ourselves. You can't have the pack because it ain't yours to have." Like a witch had been turned off, Dimitri's face grew red with anger.

"This pack? It isn't yours. I want it and I'll take it forcefully. Who do you have to save you? Your vegetable of a mate or the wolves dying in unworthy death? You have no one to help you out of this. I've laid my eyes on your pack for years and now it's going to be mine whether you like it or not. No one is going to stop me." He paused, his face going blank for a slight second.

"Do you perhaps have your sight on the council of elders? I know of the thousands of messages Derrick has sent to them about me." He smirks cruelly at Erin.

Erin's heart dropped a beat, feat encapsulating every part of her body. "Be smart. I have every one I should have behind me, supporting me." He leans closer to her, his eyes twinkling with something Erin couldn't figure. "Even the so called council of Elders." He lets out.

Erin's body shook with anger, anger at herself, Derrick and most of all the council of elders. She can't recall how many times Derrick had sent messages to them about this but they ignored it. But now, it makes sense. The are funding Dimitri's madness. Now it makes more sense. A tear falls to Erin's cheeks but she wipes it angrily, her eyes red. She lifts her head and looks at Dimitri dead in the eye.

"I will not give up on my pack. Not now, not ever so gather every nonentity you can, gather every single one of them and you still won't get my pack. Not now and certainly not in your next life." She sneers at him bitterly, angrily spitting on him.

That did it for Dimitri. He leaps at her, in that split second before their clash, she couldn't help but wonder if this would be the moment when everything changes.

Dimitri's strength was formidable and he was relentless in his attack. He swung his fist at her hard. Erin staggers back, her back colliding with the shelf in Derrick's room. The knife falling from her hand swiftly. Her body aches tremendously just as the said man towers over herm grabbing her by the hair, tightly. His eyes red and murderous.

"I gave you a chance to be free. I gave you a fucking chance to choose. Hell, I would've made you my Luna! I would've taken your damn pup. I would've kept the submissive ones free but you gave all that up. I wonder how much your people must hate you. They'd despise you if they hear what you've done." He spat out, pulling her hair greatly.

Erin squeezed her eyes shut, pain soaring in her head "They'll thank me for rejecting a monster like you. They'll bow and worship me for not giving them up to a cruel, disgusting creature like yourself." She spat out just as his fist connects with her stomach harshly. Dimitri doesn't slow down, he punches her badly. Erin drops to the ground, weak and battered, coughing out blood.

She watches weakly as Dimitri stepped back, cackling loudly "Is this it?" She thought to herself. Maxwell is still alive. Samantha is too. Is this how evil wins? Is this how she looses again

A tear rolls down her cheeks.

"That's it. I wonder which of you should go first. You or your beloved alpha." Dimitri grins widely.

"Who should I kill first?" he asks maniacally, an excited glint shining in his eyes. He walks back to where he was standing when Erin had seen him for the first time and takes out an axe Erin hadn't even seen there. Her heart leaped as he lifts the axe, its edge still shiny and pointed.

"I spent days sharpening it, thinking of the day when I will finally get to chop Alpha Derrick's head and here it is." He chuckled like he was saying something emotional.

"Who should go first? Tell me, Erin?" He asks, pointing the axe at her and Derrick.

"Oh this is exciting."

"I should make you suffer, I should make you wail as you watch me chop that fuckers head off and then I'll come back to you. I'll have your heart fed to vultures for defying me, you wretched wench." He spat out angrily.

Erin swallows harshly, every part of her body hurting horribly like she's been dragged through seven kingdoms. She had no strength left in her anymore, she heaved deeply. Looking at Dimitri.

"Me, me first, please." She says weakly, praying to every supernatural being that he accepts and takes her out first. She cannot be tortured this way.

Dimitri looks at her and chuckles. "Guess you don't love him well enough, do you. I'll grant your wish, after all I'm not as evil as you've made me out to be." His eyes sparkled with excitement as he walked towards her, his axe shining and glinting in his hands. He stops right in front of her, slowly lifting his axe as though trying to savor the moment. Erin shuts her eyes close, fear paralyzing every inch of her body. This is it. There is no going back after this.

Help me...

It happened in a second. In Dimitri's lost haze while grabbing his axe, Erin has taken the opportunity to take out the small knife, she had pocketed back at the hall. It had fallen close to her and she needed just a chance, and she got it.

She gathered every bit of strength left in her and stabbed him in the kneed as deep as it could go, the axe falls right next to her as the man staggers back a bit. He looks at the knife dug in his knee and back at Erin, his eyes filled with disbelief.

He holds the knife and forces it out, his blood coated the knife. He throws the knife on the floor and scoffs painfully.

"You're a fucking mad woman!" He screams.

"Did you really think a flimsy knife would kill me? Are you out of your fucking mind?!" He yelled at her, staggering backwards again, clearly becoming weak.

Erin smirked. "No, I didn't think a flimsy knife would kill you but I hoped the poison would kill you." She spat out, whatever strength and energy she didn't have, were all coming back to her like it never disappeared.

She stands up, pushing the pain in her body away. This is the moment she was hoping for and here it is. She slaved day and night hoping this would work and it finally did.

"What did you..." Dimitri trailed off, falling to the ground with a thud, his face growing whiter, veins popping like he was being choked.

"Wolfsbane. At the end of the day, you're a wolf just like we all are. I spent hours making it and its antidote. You know it's so scarce that one cannot even find it. I

had to resort to making it myself. In some minutes, your heart will stop beating and you'll be dead forever. How does that sound? Huh?" She grinned, watching the man shake uncontrollably, his mouth open, letting a train of saliva and blood out.

"You've done enough, Dimitri. It's your time now." She spat out, watching as he takes his last breathe still unable to speak a word.