

17-Who Did It?

Finch's POV

As soon as I know Ari is asleep and safe I have one destination. The cells.

Duke- We get to kill him, right?

Me- You think he did this?

Duke- I don't know.

Not surprising, Anderson and Finley are already there.

"Did you blow up the plane?" I ask Carter, using my Alpha Command. He may have Alpha blood, but he is not Alpha yet.

"NO," Carter answers. "I would have to make the pain stop. Do you have any idea what that girl put us through since June?"

"Do you have any idea what she could have put you through last night?" I ask with raised eyebrows. "I wasn't the one pumping the breaks, she was."

"Thanks, Dad," Carter rolls his eyes.

"Carter, Dad has a second chance, Ari has a second chance, maybe we get one too," Finley offers. "But hurting Ari hurts Dad. I won't do it."

Anderson looks in deep thought. He runs his hands through his hair pulling out the bun.

"She and Dad mark each other, the pain stops, and we live our lives, and likely get our wolves back," Anderson says. "I'm good with that."

"She is ours!" Carter snarls. "You can't seriously consider putting your dick inside where I have been."

Anderson and Finley share a look and then look at Carter.

I stand there and shake my head.

"There is no way in hell," I tell him. "She loves Kale, she would never cheat on him."

"I agree, Dad is right," Anderson huffs. "Plus, me and Fin know when you are lying."

Carter seems to have given up and sits on the cot in his cell.

"The King, Queen, and Crown Prince will be here soon," I tell them. "Will any of you be joining us?"

I look at Carter, knowing Anderson and Finley will.

"I will not pretend to play happy family," Carter shakes his head.

"Then, you will stay in here until you come to your sense," I say as Carter looks at the ground. "The girl you rejected has found her second chance, you are welcome back in the

packhouse.”

“Thanks,” Anderson mumbles.

Finley actually smiles. I think he missed his room.

“Carter,” I say, getting him to look at me. “I love you very much. I know this lesson in loss is huge, but you decide how you react to it.”

“Thanks for the peptalk,” Carter sighs.

Duke- Seriously, there are two others, just end him. I have been begging you to let me eat him since he was a little pup. 4

Me- They are all three our sons. What the hell is wrong with you? 1

Duke goes quiet as I shake my head. 1

“Dinner at 7pm tomorrow night,” I tell them. “Carter, if you want to join us and promise to behave, let the guards know.”

Carter nods and lays back on the cot.

“We will get your stuff from the dorm and bring it to your room,” Anderson tells him.

“To sleep down the hall where my father is fucking my mate,” Carter breathes out with his arm covering his eyes.

“But we won’t feel it,” Finley sighs. “Maybe we can all finally get laid.”

We all look at Finley with surprise.



"You haven't been getting any?" Carter smirks.

Finley looks at everyone. "I actually liked her. I couldn't sleep with anyone feeling the way I did."

I offer Finley a hug and he takes it.

"Missed this," Finley whispers.

I realize I haven't hugged any of my sons in a long time. Even before all this started with Ari, I hadn't hugged my boys.

I'm not sure what the goddess is doing, but I trust her.

Duke- Finley is my favorite. Banjo is the best.

When Finley pulls away, I offer a hug to Anderson. He almost laughs as he takes it. Anderson holds on longer than I expected, but I don't pull away.

Duke- Bear is ready to come back. He will be a good Alpha.

When he releases me, I use my fingerprint to open Carter's cell. The closer I get the more surprised I am. Carter, my toughest, my most stubborn, son is silently crying.

He takes the hug and I hold him close, so his brothers don't see the tears.

"I really love her so much," Carter tells me. "I was horrible to her. I broke her. Kale held her together. You have to fix her. Please fix her." 1

Duke- Damn it. 3

Me- He got to you.

Duke- Shut up.

I tighten my hug.

"I will do my best," I tell him.

Finally, Carter stops crying and lays down on the cot.

"I'm gonna stay locked up for now. I don't trust myself,"
Carter says.

I leave him there and make my way back to Ari. She is still sleeping when I get back, so I pull her into a snuggle and hold her.

She is not tiny, but she fits against me so perfectly. I don't know why the goddess ever gave her to the triplets. She was clearly always meant to be mine.

I look at the clock and realize it's dinner time.

"Ari," I whisper and plant little kisses on her cheeks.

"Yeah," She moans sleepily.

"Can I get you some dinner?" I ask, rubbing her arms.

"Yeah," She sits up. "I'm really hungry."

I lift her up and carry her to the kitchen.

"What can I make you?" I ask, grabbing some options from the freezer.

"What?" She asks with a laugh. "You cook?"

"Most nights, yeah," I answer as she chooses the ribeyes. My girl! "Mind if Anderson and Finley join us?"

"No," She answers weakly.

"They don't have to, Baby," tell her and she jumps.

Duke- What the hell did you do?

"Finch, please, please don't call me Baby," I see her eyes fill with tears and her chin tremble.

I move around the counter and holder.

"I'm so sorry, Sweetheart. I will never call you that again," I promise.

"Thank you," She wraps her arms around me and takes in my scent.

Duke- It's really going to be hard on her.

Me- She loved him.

Duke- So did her wolf. Her wolf is in mourning.

She moves back to her seat, and I go out to our balcony to start the grill.

We chat as I cut up veggies. I ask her to tell me about Kale.


"Why?" She asks.



"When my mate died, talking about her helped a lot in the early days. It made it feel like she would never be forgotten for real. I see her in the boys every day, but you don't have that," I stop and look at her. "Do you?"

She smiles and shakes her head.

 Comments

 Vote (1.1K) 