

Chapter 8

Nolan POV

The Bronze Arch Meadows trailer park looked like a disaster zone, blood was smeared across most surfaces and nail marks dug into the dirt, trailers had been tipped upside down and some had massive claw marks running through them and the whole area reeked of death, and blood.

"Noles, we're gonna head back," Fayly shouted.

I looked up and saw a towering man standing beside Fayly and Ikelos. Ikelos was watching the humongous man carefully, making my suspicion spike. This man wasn't his friend, he was just as dubious of him. Mason pushed past him and headed toward me, his face void of any emotion and his posture rigid. He had a dirty sheet wrapped around his lower half.

"Who's he?" I asked when he got closer.

The towering man was watching Mason's every move. Even in the darkness, I could see his hateful glares.

"Some god that wants to help. I don't trust him, though something seems off about him. I don't think he's telling us the whole truth."

I glanced at Fayly, Ikelos, and the god who wanted to help one last time before they disappeared into thin air. Usually, Ikelos lies. The God standing with them must be able to create portals of some sort, like Aunt Katalina does.

"Ok let's get going, there's nothing else here," I shouted.

Lash, Preston, Ben, and Mateo all made their way back to the car. Lash climbed in first, followed by the others. He took Ruby's death pretty hard, but finding who the spy Cheryl has in the pack has helped push him through the depression, he is determined to find the snake who killed his mate and get his vengeance. He started training with Fayly and Kezia but ended up working with the rest of the pack warriors, he had a lot of aggression to work out, and training with a pissed off wendigo is quite a challenge but it's only making our warriors stronger and more competent and seeing how skilled they all are is only giving me confidence that we will win this fucking war that is on the horizon.

I got in the front with Mason climbing in beside me. He had grabbed a T-shirt and some sweatpants from the trunk but he still looked dazed, like he was on another world far away from here. He was tense, his lips pressed tightly together and his jaw clenched, his eyebrows had pulled together and the crease between them was deep. He looked forward out of the windshield but he had a faraway look in his eyes.

"What happened? Are you ok?" I asked.

Mason was family to me, and I cared about him.

"I'm not, just stressed with this war coming and my children and people I care about being thrown into it."

He smiled at me, but it was a sad smile. His eyes looked twisted with pain. I didn't say anything else. Mason was a man of little words, much like myself, and I respected that.

Driving home, all I could think about was Kezia. My mind was constantly drifting back to her lately. I was worried about her. Since we got her back from Noah's pack house, she has been distant and it kills me to see the sparkle in her eyes no longer there. She continued to fight the pull she felt with the bond because she felt guilty about what her mother had done. None of that mattered to me though, all I want is to see that sparkle back in her eye. Each new day I feel my hope blossoming as my love for her grows, I can see that she is losing the battle, she's drawn to me as much as I am to her, she seeks out my companionship daily and I see what my touch does to her but I will never act on my feelings, not until she is ready. I don't want her to feel pushed into something she isn't comfortable with but I was glad she was starting to drop her walls and let me in. I pulled into the garage of the pack house. Everyone climbed out apart from Mason. He held back.

"Nolan."

"Yeah."

I turned and faced the man beside me. I looked up to Mason, and I respected the hell out of him. He had had a hard life, and he kept his cards close to his chest, but I was beginning to understand his subtle facial expressions or gestures.

"Don't lose hope. I've seen the way Kezia looks at you."

I smiled and turned back to the open car door, leaving Mason in the garage. I could tell something was eating him up and he was wanting to be alone. I made my way to find Zak first, I'm sure Fayly had already told him we didn't need shit all, but I wanted to check that the children were ok and settling in after what they had been through and find out who the man was that just showed up. He was supposed to be a god, but my experience with the gods so far wasn't good. They always had messages of doom or wanted to kill someone.

"Have you seen Fayly yet?" I asked as I walked into the rec room.

Zak was standing in the corner watching all the children, Harper was sitting with some of them on a giant bean bag watching a film, a small child cuddled up into her side, I could see Zak smiling as he looked on at his mate with the child. Ember and Logan were at the opposite end, playing games with some of the older ones. They were laughing and looked like they were having fun.

"She came by before and said something about Ikelos's friend dropping by to help."

"Did she say who it was?"

"No, but I don't think Ikelos has many human friends that will just drop by unannounced."

"Apparently he's a god. He just showed up at the trailer park. Your dad didn't seem to like him too much."

"Mason was there?"

He folded his arms in front of his chest. I could see he was thinking something over.

"Yeah, he just showed up. I didn't ask him about it though he seemed on edge."

"Yeah, he just stormed off after we found the kids by the gate."

His phone started to ring. I saw him pull it out of his back pocket and he rolled his eyes, making me smile.

"It's Hayden... Oh, Kezia came by before looking for you."

I nodded my head in appreciation and moved toward the door. I didn't wait for Zak to tell me where she was, I already knew exactly where she would be, she still loved our late night walks and I looked forward to them each night, she enjoyed looking up at the stars and listening to stories about growing up in a werewolf pack but most of all she loved to watch the reies dancing around in the night sky.

I could smell her sweet scent filling the crisp night air. I made my way toward the meadow that she loved and found her sitting in the grass, watching the reies dance around her.

"Good evening," I said as I got closer.

She spun around and looked at me, her eyes lit up, giving me hope.

"Nolan, I thought you were busy."

"I'm never too busy for you. I was wondering if you would like to go and get something to eat."

Her eyes went big and her mouth opened slightly in surprise.

"Do you mean like a date?"

I couldn't help but smile at how innocent she sounded. She was too pure for this world and didn't deserve all the cruelty it had already bestowed upon her.

"Yes, like a date."

"I would like that, but are you sure you want to be seen with me after what my mother did?"

I took her hand and gently lifted it to my lips, placing a soft kiss on the back of it. My lips blazed with the sparks from the mate bond and feeling her flesh against them.

"I want the whole world to see you with me. I want everyone to know that you are mine."

I could hear her heart racing and her breath hitched in her throat. She looked at me with her doe-like eyes and I felt my heart utter. She really was beautiful, the way her hair fell around her beautiful face framing it looked effortless, her deep dark eyes held mystery and wonder and her smile made everything seem better, it lit up the darkness and led me with a sense of belonging, I belonged to Kezia, heart, body, and soul.

"Come on."

I held my hand out toward her. She placed her hand in mine and I gently pulled her up off the grass. My hand tingled from her touch, sweeping up my arm. I will never get tired of how she makes me feel. My body comes alive when I'm with her.

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"Good morning son, you look happy."

Last night had been one of the best nights of my life so far. I had taken Kezia to a restaurant in town and we spent the whole night talking. It felt normal, like it was always meant to be that way with us. After we had finished our meal, we made our way back home. As we walked along the lonely street, she slipped her hand into mine and didn't let go until we got to her bedroom door in the pack house. I wanted to kiss her so badly, but I also wanted to respect her, so I waited until she had gone inside and practically bounced back to the suite down the hall from her room. I didn't want her staying on the oor with all the pack warriors and guests of the pack and Zak was more than happy for her to stay on our porch and having her close by settled me and my wolf.

"I am. Is mom home?"

I walked into my parent's house to the smell of pancakes. I made my way of pancakes and sat down at the table as mom placed a plate in front of me full of pancakes and bacon. I picked up my fork, feeling my stomach grumble from hunger. I took a big bite as mom sat down with a cup of coffee, her eyes bore into me.

"I was thinking we could cast a spell on the territory so that only pack members can enter or anyone who has been invited. That way, Noah or Silas or them bloody gods can't just show up. What do you think?"

I nodded my head as I shoveled more pancakes into my mouth.

"I will need your help and Katalina's and maybe the Seraphic clan and the fae. I have tweaked it so that it will be forfeited with all the different kinds of supernaturals casting it."

"It's a great idea, sugar bear."

Dad kissed mom on the head and sat down beside her. He placed his plate down on the table and looked at me.

"Did you give him my pancakes?"

He looked back at mom waiting. She smiled and nodded her head in answer.

"Yes, I did and I'm not even sorry. If I feed him, maybe he will come by more."

"Mom, I'm always here! I think it's a great idea as well. I will tell Zak."

Dad reached over and stabbed his fork into my pancake, whilst Mom glared at me for talking with food in my mouth. I smiled at her whilst gking off dad's fork with my own, she smiled back at me and began laughing at dad as he pouted over not having any pancakes.

Mom spent the next 30 minutes explaining the spell we were going to be casting. After making a few more adjustments to it, I made my way back to the pack house to get things ready. I had sent Zak a mind link whilst I was with mom and he thought it was a great idea as well, he was going to send messages to the gypsies and the fairies to let them know about the plan and to make sure they all turned up. As I walked to the back of the pack house, I could see the fae had already started to arrive and were sitting in the large gazebo at the back of the garden, close to the training eld. The sound of wolves sparring began to fill the air as I got closer, I looked out and immediately spotted Kezia making her way toward me, she brushed her hair behind her ear as a small blush crept across her cheeks and her lips curled up into a breathtaking smile.

"Hello, Nolan."

Her voice was like an angel singing heavenly sweet nothings to me. Fayly smiled at me and patted my shoulder, she has been working with Kezia and I was grateful, my cousin was a skilled fighter, and having her training Kezia only led me with confidence that if she was ever in a situation where she needed to defend herself she would be able to. She walked past me and stood beside Nina, she bent over, looking into the stroller and I could hear her cooing about how cute Samantha was. Kezia stood beside me, her arm brushed against mine and I couldn't think clearly. I looked down to see my beautiful mate smiling at what she was doing to me.

"Ok, thank you all for coming. We have had more than our fair share of surprise guests lately, so I have found a spell that will protect us all within the territory. I have made some adjustments so that we can all say the spell together and it will be strengthened by each of our magic."

Mom had a large pile of paper in her hands. She split it into two piles and handed them to the people closest to her. Everyone took a sheet and passed the rest to the person next to them. Kezia took one from Aunt Katalina and smiled at me as she held it out toward me. My fingers brushed against hers as I took it from her. I could see her chest rise and fall heavily as the sparks ran up her hand from my touch.

"Nolan, Fayly, Alex, can I borrow you all for a moment?" Zak asked.

"I will be right back. Stay with my mom and Aunt Kat."

She nodded as she took back the spell she had handed me. I could feel her eyes watching me as I followed Zak back into the pack house. Alisa was standing by the door of Hayden's office. As I walked in I saw the large man from the night before and Ikelos standing beside the window, leaning in against the frame with his arms crossed in front of his chest, his eyes lit up when Fayly walked in.

"Moros, what are you going here?" Fayly asked as she made her way toward Ikelos.

"You need my help to win this war and I need yours to make sure everything goes as it's supposed to."

"And what does that mean?" Alisa asked.

"It means that if you keep going down the path you are on right now, everyone you love will die when Eris takes over Ephion!"