

79 ERIK, FRIEND OR FOE

"Thirty bodies?" I spoke aloud and closed my mouth. 1

Erik said nothing and then turned to Loren.

"I'll inform Xaden and ensure they are assigned to their respective packs." Erik said.

Loren nodded and started to leave when he stopped short and looked me over.

There was a frown stamped on his face.

"What happened to your face?" He asked, and then, when I realized he was talking to me, I covered my cheeks.

Then I felt it damp and sticky.

I lifted my hands down and saw that it was blood.

When Alex slapped me, he must have unleashed his claws on me.

I hadn't even noticed.

"Nothing." I said quickly.



He frowned down at me, but I said nothing.

At that moment, a couple of the bodies of the wolves who had been killed were brought in.

I caught sight of the one who had attacked me and the elk and jumped.

But he was already dead.

He was the only person who had heard the voice and seen the luminous creature.

Now, I was the only one.

"And what about the book I had given you?" He asked me.

He went to the place the place where he had kept the book.

It was still untouched.

"You used some potions." He said. "I told you to read the book because there were much easier options. These potions are had to come by."

I didn't read the book because I was illiterate. 1

"I'm sorry about that." I apologized.



He sighed, closed the book, and returned it to its place.

He was about to leave when he stopped short and exonerated the mark on my face.

"If you won't tell me who did this, just make sure you use some of that Lyrun." He said. "It would heal faster."

Then Loren frowned, turned to the men carrying the bodies, and instructed them.

I turned back to Erik.

"Handling Loren must be a handful." He told me, "You know he doesn't have assistants because no one came to stand for him, or rather, it's the other way around."

Ahhh, that was why he had no assistants or apprentices.

"But with you, he seems to be doing fine." Erik said.

I smiled weakly. "I'm just doing what I can."

He put his arm around his waist and said, "Your scar."



I sharply faced him. "Please don't tell Alpha Xaden about it."

"Why shouldn't I?" He asked me. "You want me to keep something from my own Alpha? Don't you know that's treason?" 1

I began to sweat.

If Xaden confronts Alexander, then Alexander will tell him everything about me.

And I would be dead.

Xaden would kill me.

"No, I'm not saying you should keep a secret. The cut would heal." I assured him. "I've had far worse. I don't mean to cause any trouble."

"For how long do you cover up for people?" 1

He asked me. "I don't know what it is. But you should be delighted that I will meet Xaden to tell him. That way, Xaden would punish him."

"It's not important." I said. "Please. Like I said, I've received far worse."

"You know what I said about it being the season of Halo? And wolves being unable to heal their



wounds." He stated.

"Yes." I was wondering what he was getting at.

"At the end of the day, Jasmine," He said. "We aren't the strong ones. An Alpha who easily gets stabbed would die in a second. We're used to our bodies being healed after cuts. Unless it is deadly and we die. But now, with just a cut, an Alpha could die. Your body is resistant. You're unshifted, and you've received far worse. And yet, you have survived. Without the things you've gone through, no one would have survived. Perhaps not even myself."

Before he could say more or before I could even ask more questions, he rose to his feet and stalked off.

I silently prayed, hoping he would not tell Xaden what had transpired.

I went on cleaning the wounds of the other Alphas.

Loren finished up for me, and then, finally, they were all gone.

I was able to sit and rest.



"You did well." He commented. "You should have some meals."

I looked up and saw that it was almost breaking dawn.

I told him, "I'll do that before I resume my duties."

He frowned at me. "You've been working around the clock. No one will pressure you to do any chores. I can promise you that."

Before I could protest, Loren was gone.

I cleaned up the room and returned the supplies to where they were.

The most I would do was do a routine check on the men to treat their wounds.

After cleaning the entire room, I heard some loud noises, like merriment, and then I hurried to a balcony to oversee what was happening.

The women in our pack were singing songs of praise for Alpha Xaden for how he had proved his might and been the winner of last night's ritual.



They threw decorations, clapped, and sang.

It indeed seemed like a happy event.

Then I saw Princess Belle staring right at me from a balcony.

I froze and hurriedly backed back into the balcony before retreating completely and hiding my face.

Why was I becoming a person of interest to her?

I could not understand.

After that, I decided to hide from her, too.

When I was done with the room, Loren came back in.

"Here." He said. "Take this to the royal family."

My heart began to race rapidly.

I wanted to steer clear of them.

I shook my head. "Please, I haven't been feeling so good. I was hoping to rest a bit before I resumed my work."



He looks at me suspiciously.

I expected him to be harsh and tell me to return to work.

But he sighed and said, "Alright. Just take some rest. But you can drop it later in the evening. Make a mental note of that. I would forget."

He dropped the potions off.

With no choice, I picked them up.