



99 A ROYAL INTERRUPTION

The man held his blade to my throat, and I could hardly breathe. 1

I had seen him only once in my entire life.

Back home in the moonlight pack, he had been one of my father's most prized assassins.

I was only about seven years old and scrubbing the library floors when my father came in.

I had gone to hide quickly because I knew my father did not like seeing me even though I was doing my duties.

A man, almost like a shadow, appeared before me.

He had rich olive skin, skin, and his eyes, I could remember, were hazel.

He was dressed in clothing like something a desert wolf would wear.

"Have you been discreet?" My father had asked.

There was no one else in the room.



The spy nodded.

All through the conversation, I hadn't seen him talk.

He only bows or shakes his head, never uttering a single word.

His entire being scared me.

I had once seen him, and even though he stood before me years later, I knew he was the one.

"You were sent to bring tidings as soon as possible," he told me.

I swallowed, breathing heavily.

"And yet you have not brought forth any to him." He said. "The Alpha is furious at you."

I could feel the sharp end of the blade pointing to my neck and begin to draw blood slowly.

I couldn't even speak.

"I will release you. And you will answer to me. If you make any mistake in trying to outsmart me, call for help. I will slit your throat." He said. "Do you understand?"



I nodded, knowing that he was not making jokes.

Then he released the blade from me, and I breathed a sigh of relief as I set my hand against my neck and touched the sticky blood.

"Now begin," He said.

I swallowed and looked at him.

Everything about him told me to be scared. Just the same way I had been when I was a child.

"I have been unable to send any messages because I cannot read or write," I expressed.

He just stared at me. "Is this a joke? I told you no games!"

And then he pointed his blade at me again.

I quickly stepped back, and my back roughly hit the wall.

There was no escape for me.

I shook my head. "No, it is not any game. I did receive the message that was sent to me through my bird. But I could not read it. Neither could I write another to send it to him."



He just stared at me.

"You, of all people, should know that I never lived a good life back home. I worked my entire life. I never had an education. There was no point in my life for me to have that."

After a while, he said, "And you did not think to tell the Alpha about this?"

I went quiet.

The spy and I stood for a while as he debated how else to move on from me.

"I will send word to your father." He finally said, "I don't need to tell you not to discuss our encounter with anyone. Later at night, before the last ritual, you will meet me at the abandoned ruins. If you don't know where that is, find me. Don't keep me waiting if you try to play stupid."

He gave a mean chuckle. "I don't need to tell you what your father would do to you. Or better still, I might help him with the Job."

And then he left me in the closet.

Once he was gone, I gasped for air, breathing



heavily as if I had been underwater holding my breath.

My entire body was shaking in tremendous fear.

I could feel it.

The power my father had over me.

Even though he was miles and miles away from me.

He still had it within himself to send a chill down my spine.

After I had managed to compose myself, I took deep breaths and went out of the closet.

Fortunately enough, no one had seen me leave or enter.

As I hurried down the hallway, I bumped into Lady Belinda.

I curtsied.

"I saw Alpha Xaden." She said. "You did the work well. Treated his wounds."

"I was only doing my duty, my lady," I said.



She sighed and looked up at me. "He did say there was some disturbance. He would wish you didn't come to his rooms again."

I felt the sting.

"Did something happen?" She asked me.

My lips quivered, unsure of what to say. "Did he say something happened?"

"I am asking you if something did." She said.

I bit my bottom lip. "Nothing, Your Majesty."

I could feel her gaze on me.

I knew he had not told her anything, so she asked me.

It hurt to know he had told Lady Belinda never to let me into his rooms again.

"I'll steer clear," I said. I have some work to do."

Then I hurried away before she could ask me any more questions.

I went back to the rooms to resume my work.

I went to the queen's bedroom to do some of my



work.

As I opened the door, I barged into some people kissing.

They jumped in fright.

I didn't see them clearly, so I quickly turned away and said, "I'm so sorry. Forgive me for interrupting."

I don't know what made me do it, but I looked up and saw that it was the King and none other than the Queen.

They turned to look at me, and I saw that it wasn't the Queen, in fact, but the Queen's sister. 1

Princess Cherry.

I dropped the objects I had brought in to clean, and they fell, tumbling to the ground.

I was unable to say a word.

Then, I quickly bowed and apologized once again. "Forgive me, your majesties. Excuse me."

I quickly picked up the items and ran out of the room.