

## the unwanted bride of atticus fawn

~SCARLETT~

Wilder Cage.

That was it. That was all I needed to reject him and end this madness once and for all. Before a single word could exit my mouth, a wolf's cry echoes throughout the woods.

"They're coming!" Atticus shouts suddenly.

What were they talking about? Who was coming?

"Everyone prepare for their attack!" Griffin shouts as he moves to protect the women in his family.

"Prepare to shield yourselves against their first attack!" Austin warns everyone. "Witches are their strongest allies.

It's going to f\*cking hurt when they attack but hold your ground!"

He spoke as though he was used to dealing with these people and with the title that Austin held, I wouldn't doubt it.

Autumn and Clarissa run over to my side, pulling me between them. "We will shield you as much as possible from those witches!"

"Autumn!" I gasp. "Clarissa! It's so good to see you both." They hug me tightly, "No, Scarlett, it's so good to see you alive and well. We will do everything possible to get you and Carter out of here alive!"

They don't have a chance to say anything else as more wolves with witches on top of their backs suddenly surround us. I don't think I've ever seen this many witches in one place at the same time before. It wasn't just witches, there were also vampires. Every single one of them looked terrifying like they spent their lives killing and torturing.

I knew right away that things had just taken a more dangerous turn.

Carter looked over at me, and he forced a smile to reassure me that everything would be okay.

"We are going to get out of this alive, I promise you." He whispers as he leans over and kisses me on my forehead.

"I'll make sure of it."

I trusted Carter with my whole heart, but these conditions were different. I knew about the black council. I knew how dangerous they were, and I was also learning that Wilder and his family were just as bad.

"This has nothing to do with you, prosecutor," Austin shouts to a man dressed all in black. <br /> "This is a personal situation between Carter Prince and Wilder Cage."

He had a black Crow in his hand that looked as though he was staring into each of our souls. The raucous sound it made next caused a shiver down my spine. I took one look around us and the fear doubled within me.

These people were used to getting what they wanted, I could tell.

"If it's so personal," the prosecutor says as he walks forward, "then why are all of you here? This doesn't look like a fair fight at all, Austin. You and your family are trying to take advantage of our innocent allies. It simply isn't fair."

"Innocent?" Carter growls. "They kidnapped my wife!"

"Ah, yes," he drawls. "Correct me if I'm wrong, but isn't your wife Wilder's mate? According to our laws, she belongs to him and him only. You are of no importance even if you married her. Marriage means nothing in our world as long as mates are involved. Of course, you wouldn't know that, sir, since your family is sadly incapable of having any."

I wince at his direct intent to hurt Carter in front of me.

Carter's hands tighten into fists as he glares at him, "I don't know what laws you follow, but in my family, a marriage isn't 'nothing'; she's legally mine, and no one can take her from me."

"We are warning you, Carter Prince," he says calmly. "This is your final chance to back out. Please give us the girl, and you and your family can go. No one will harm you if you give Wilder what is rightfully his."

"I am not his," I shout. "I will never be his. Carter is the only man I love, and no one can change my mind."

"You heard my wife," Carter smirks at him. "She's not going anywhere except back home with me."

"Very well, the prosecutor says as he nods towards the witches.

"Prepare yourselves!" Austin roars. I wasn't sure what was about to happen, but the second a pain hit me in my head, I realized what they'd meant. The pain that Austin said we would all experience, I could feel it everywhere, especially in my mind. It was one of the most painful experiences of my life. It felt like it was traveling through my bones and making me weaker with each passing second.

Could something like this harm my baby?

No!

I had to fight back. I had to be strong for my baby!

"Autumn!" Clarissa gasps. "Scarlett is still feeling the pain!"

"I know," Autumn shouts. "We must increase the shield!"

Almost immediately after, I could feel the pain begin to ease. It was a lot more bearable now. I was even able to stand without my entire body feeling like it would crash into the ground.

Carter drops to the ground in front of me and my eyes widen in horror. Seeing him like this was terrifying.

"Carter!" I cry out.

Not too long after, I hear Clara's scream as well. She'd woken up to the pain. Alaric was also in pain, but he looked even worse now that he realized Clara was hurting. I watched in horror as all of the people I cared about started to drop one by one onto the ground.

It was like a nightmare that I couldn't wake up from!

"Bring her to us!" Autumn shouts at Alaric. "We will protect her!"

"Clarissa, we have to try harder!" Autumn shouts.

"We need to protect as many of them as possible!"

I'd heard how powerful Autumn and Clarissa were, but this was my first time witnessing it in person. They were standing strong against the many witches surrounding us. I didn't think anyone was powerful enough to handle this.

I drop onto the ground next to Carter and wrap my arms around him protectively. He groans in pain, and it aches my heart.

"I'm not leaving your side, ever, so please fight this Carter.

Fight it!" I beg him.

My eyes widen when Wilder grabs me by my arm and pulls me off Carter.

No!

"Let go of me!" I scream.

"Never!" He yells.

I watch in horror as Carter looks over at us and roars in pain.