

Chapter 80

My eyes widened and I shook my head. No way. When they removed the gene, they said it would go to the next werewolf born. I knew Auri was chosen to be my Luna Queen, which was what made this Alpha King different, but she wasn't with the pack anymore "I thought it was the Nova! I thought it multiplied my power and allowed me to shift werewolves now. I watched them unable to defy me. That wasn't it. It wasn't the Nova. I'm the fucking Alpha King." The look on her face was a mix of horror and amusement. It twisted her face and her eyes closed. ②

What do you mean you? Only his. you're his mate. You're that pack's Luna, aren't you Astra?" Before she could answer, Auri started to cough again. I ran and jumped onto the stage and she fell over. Her cough causing her to gag and I watched as blood poured out of her mouth. I was horrified. She pushed off me though. The electricity I felt was cut off. Astra, take the damn drugs before you just die alone on that floor. You still need to kill Micah, remember.

Auri reached up onto the piano and grabbed a little bag. She took a tablet out and shoved it in
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her mouth. She grabbed a bottle and emptied the bottle into her mouth. She was on all fours and didn't speak for a while. The seconds ticked by but she didn't say anything and the person on

the phone stayed silent as well. Then she sat back, taking a deep breath.

"Pipsqueak, please send over the details of the Alpha Kings troop locations. I want to see if I can poke some holes in his defense. Also, what you heard about the second deal stays between us. I will deal with it. A deal won't stand if Micah is dead. I'll ensure it."

There is not a single slur. It was like she woke up and everything I had just witnessed was just an act. She looked over at me and I saw her eyes. They were swirling, beautiful starry nights. Then it clicked. She was taking Nova. How the hell did she get her hands on Nova, let alone take it herself? (Yes Astra. If there is anything else you need.. "I'll contact you. Thanks."

The phone line went quiet and I was now staring at a completely different version of Auri. Her lips were pursed in a thin line.①

"What the fuck did you do?"

I shook my head. "They assured me it would go to the next werewolf in line. They said they would be born because technically the gene died in me!"

"The next in line, Logan. That's me. I'm next in line. You made me Alpha King. But more importantly, you would give them access to werewolves? Give them access to lives that were only doing as they were ordered?" Auri shook her head. "They have mates too. Families too. You just doomed them to be exactly like me. If not worse. How could you even make that trade, Logan? How could you live with yourself?"①

I stood up. "Because I already couldn't live with

myself! I couldn't live knowing my blood was the reason everyone was dead. The reason why you were targeted. It's all because of me. I wanted to get rid of it. I am nothing but a selfish asshole now and I have accepted that."

"At the cost of other peoples lives!"

"Who aren't my pack Auri! I'm protecting my pack!"

She growled and came within inches of my face. "They are your people."

"Not anymore."

Auri threw up her hands. "No, you're right. They are mine now. Because you thought it would be better to forsake them all than to step up."

She started to pick up bottles and throw them into the trash next to the stage.

"You're taking Nova? Do you know what the hell that does to vampires?"

"Do you know what the hell it does it werewolves? Probably not. So don't say shit about it, Logan. I survive how I want."

"But you aren't surviving are you? You're dying." I finally said it, looking at her, my eyes were filling up with tears.

She stopped with bottles in her hand for a moment. "Yes, I'm dying. The more I'm off on Nova, the faster it progresses. There are many side effects to healing potions, Logan. Especially after the amount I've had. The last time I almost died, Micah shoved a healing potion down my throat, at behest of Max. That was the tipping point. So now, I'm dying. Nova puts it off basically pauses it."

"Auri ... "

"Shut it, Logan." She tossed more bottles off the

stage into the trash. "I don't need your pity. If you try to get in my way when I go for Micah, I will absolutely kill you."

"I'm sorry." I looked at her, and she seemed

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surprised. "For everything. I'm not asking your forgiveness because I don't deserve it. But still I'm sorry.."

She sighed and took the ashtray off the piano. "Logan, I forgave you a long time ago. Years ago. I

don't feel anything for you. Nova ensures that. I don't feel love or hate for you. There is nothing I want from you."

I jumped off the stage and grabbed her hand.

Auri stopped and just looked back at me, looking more tired than anything.

"I want something from you though."

She turned, eyebrow raised.

"I realized I need you. At the very least your friendship. I can't. I can't keep pretending like you don't mean anything to me."

"But you chose ... "

I growled, interrupting her. "I know what I chose, Auri. I've lived with my decision every day but that doesn't mean you don't still mean something to me. As though it didn't hurt."

She looked down but I was reveling in the fact that she hadn't torn her hands from mine. She was letting me hold her. Letting me feel the electricity.

"I can't give you anything."

"I'm not asking for you to love me, Auri. I'm not that stupid. I just ..."

"..don't want be alone." She finished for me

Inodded."Bryan and Hector need you.Especially before these coming months.Plus, they already drank through the tea."

Auri chuckled but she took her hand out of mine

"Logan, I've been through more than you know I don't answer to you and I don't answer to the pack."

"I'm not asking you to come back.I'm just asking you."I ran my hands through my hair How would I word it? How could I? All the feelings. Feelings that I hadn't really even voiced or thought of before. I loved her, the mate bond and our bond ensured that but I knew she may never love me ever again. I wouldn't blame her. But her friendship, her partnership still meant the world to me. Not me looking over my shoulder wondering if she was there. Somewhere I could at least try and help. Help whatever the hell she was going through.

"I just need your presence. You can train Hector, Bryan and I. Help with intel and work on our defenses. I know you have your own agenda but I would consider you an ally since you intend on killing my enemy."I sighed and shook my head." It's more complicated than that but I don't know how to word it."

"You've lost your eloquence, Alpha." Auri was smirking. She put her hands on her hips and turned to me fully."What's your offer Alpha? In exchange for my help, my presence, what will you give me?"

I was shocked. Was she actually open to this? Could I bring her to my side? Could maybe we remake our relationship?

"There is a house on the edge of the south side no one has lived in it for over a year. You can stay there since I doubt you want to stay in the packhouse. Everything will be covered by me You train Bryan, Hector and I every day."

"Except Sunday."

I nodded. "Help with planning and defenses. It sounds like you have your own intel and so it would be nice to share if you had some that would help. But you can have an entire house to yourself not have to worry about staying here."

"That's not very much for me having to train and provide my intel." Her arms crossed over her chest. She was still smirking.

"What do you want?" I asked, nervousness was sinking into my voice

"For one, I want you out of the way when I go for Micah. I don't want you to be protecting him."

I nodded. "Of course."

"Second, I want you to to apologize to both Bryan and Hector. A real apology."

I looked down. "We aren't on good terms currently."

"Oh, I know." Aurileaned against the bar. "You can do it the first day of training. I want you down on your knees."

"Anything else?"

She took a deep breath. "You've been working with Morgan to find me."

I froze. "What do you mean? We have been working together on look for ...a person...who has been buying a surplus of Nova..shit."

smiling, she took a little bow. "Yes. I want you tell Morgan that it's me. I want you to tell him the truth. All of it."

"Why?"

"Does it matter? The issue between Morgan and I is none of your business. That's my requests.?"

I nodded, looking down at the ground. It was too easy. "I can do all of those."

"Then looks like you have a new trainer." Auri smiled

"I'll have the guys set up the house for you." I itched to hug her. I wanted to pull her to me again. I wanted to keep her safe in my arms. My fingers twitched but I clasp my hands behind my back

"I'll be down tomorrow then. We can start on Tuesday."

"Auri, thank you. For listening."

She shook her head. "I'm Astra, Logan. Auri wasn't listening to you. She asked you multiple times to leave. In the pack, you will call me Astra I am not Auri. I am not Luna. I am only Astra."

Turning, she headed away from me, up the stairs to the top floor. "You can see yourself out

Logan

watched her walk up the stairs and sighed. I shut the door tighter this time as I left. Getting in the car, I headed back to the pack. Pulling up my phone, I made the first call.

"Morgan, it's Logan."

Well, don't you sound chipper. What do you want Alpha?" He was curt, but that was our usual conversation

"I found out the buyer. The one we have been looking for."

(How the hell did you find them?)

"Accident, honestly." I drove onto the highway and stepped on the gas, letting the Mercedes speed up to near max. "So?" Impatient as ever

"They go by Astra on the street usually. She runs with a crew and does jobs for Guild."

Never heard of her. I don't think I have any record of her in the Guild either

"That's because you blacklisted her actual name)

A silence came over the line. I wove between the traffic and got onto the road towards my pack

I didn't blacklist anyone named Astra.

I snorted. "No, you blacklisted The Huntress."

'Don't fuck with me, Logan.

"I'm not fucking with you. I know better than that. Auri is the buyer. She's been on it for over two years now. She's the one that is the highest buyer in North America."

He cursed. 'Did you see her?

"I did. Her eyes are mesmerizing. They do take over her entire eyes. She gave me some of the side effects and spoke to Bryan about them as well." I heard Morgan curse again and a few things break. Rolling my eyes, I sighed.

Where is she now?'

"She will be staying in the territory until the battle. She intends on taking down both the Alpha King and then Micah."

What are you doing to stop her?

I sighed. "Nothing. I know when I don't have the ability or strength to stop something. I won't be interfering with her plans."

The line went dead and I rolled my eyes. I wondered what had happened between the two of them. He was her Papa, that wasn't a relationship easily broken. I knew it was Morgan had pulled back out of her life. That it wasn't her choice. I wondered though why he would go so far as to blacklist her. Then there was Max, who I

know was removed as his second in command but Auri had mentioned that Micah had taken him away. I knew better than to pry though, not yet. I made my second call

"Bryan, I need you to have the Hale house cleaned and provided with new furniture and a stocked kitchen by tomorrow."

'Alpha, seriously. Why the hell would you give me such a short time to do that?"

"Because Auri is staying in that house. She will start training us, Hector included, until the battle."

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