

100 100- Their Move

Phoenix: 1

"Where are we going?" I asked Jack who was dragging me with him to the training hall of the warriors.

"Alpha Blake sent a mindlink that all pack members need to gather..." he trailed off when we saw Jai standing at the practice area door, waiting for us.

"Hey!" I waved at him. Though there was still no warmth in his eyes but he held my hand.

"Let's go inside," he guided me to the front rows and sat down beside me.

I looked around in awe. The hall was supposed to be for our indoor practice due to its large size, but today they had called every pack member here.

My initial understanding was, the meeting was only for warriors; however, now I could see pack Omegas, Guards, and all the high-ranking members as well.

A team of doctors and nurses was crammed up in the corner as if they had been called in the middle of their duty.

I felt unease crawling up my spine. Their hushed

whispers and quick glances towards the door only made it worse.

Alpha Blake never called the whole pack for such meetings. It usually happened department-wise.

Medical Department.

Fighter Department.

Security Department.

Training department.

Education and pup development.

Omega Welfare Unit.

Elder council.

But today...

What was so different about today?

Jai might have sensed my confusion because I felt his fingers curling around my hand, "It's something related to our pack and should stay here," he explained, looking at the small stage where Alpha Blake was standing, holding a mic, "Royals shouldn't know what we discuss here."

Why did I feel like Jai had been asked to get the message across to me?

What was this all about?

"I know you all must be confused about why you

are called here," Alpha Blake spoke in a serious tone. His eyes were moving through the crowd like a hawk.

Though I didn't have a wolf but I could feel he was using his Alpha aura to make everyone understand what he was trying to say.

The same aura that Luna Tamia tried using on me.

Queen's order, slave!

"My worthy pack members. This is something important. Tonight, before you leave this hall, each one of you will take the Holy oath. Pack's divine oath."

A ripple of surprise spread among the crowd. What did he mean by that?

"This oath," he continued, "is about loyalty... not just to the pack, but to the pride our pack carries in the form of our head warrior, Kiara. No one, and I repeat, no one outside this room should ever hear about this meeting," a small smile appeared on his lips, "No one in this pack... regardless of their rank or standing, will challenge her on the royal warrior ceremony." 2

I blinked at this. My eyes moved to Kiara, whose lips were tightly clenched; she was trying to feign a somber expression, but was failing miserably.

Luna Raya walked to Kiara and threw her arm over her shoulders before facing the crowd, "Don't forget that she is our own," she announced with a commanding edge. "She goes ahead, our pack goes ahead. She wins, we win. She is famous, which means our pack's name is recognized in the werewolf world." 1

Now now now. When did that happen?

I always thought Alpha Blake was a sensible man. But this...

Just then, Alpha Blake looked right into my eyes. Deliberately!

He knew.

He knew what I was thinking. He might have guessed that I was planning to challenge Kiara in the ceremony.

How could he do this to me? First, he didn't choose me as a head warrior. Fine!

But I was taking a fair path. It was common in the werewolf world to challenge another wolf for the same position.

Werewolves were thought to be fair when it came to strength, loyalty, and rising through ranks.

I didn't want her royal position. I wanted it to be given to a more deserving candidate.



Everyone in the hall seemed to be holding their breath. Alpha Blake was no longer looking at me, "Sometimes, Werewolves forget that leadership isn't about power or skill. It's more about talent and trust. When a pack or its Alpha makes a choice, we stand by it... not because we are forced to do it but because our future depends on it. Sometimes we have to think about the pack instead of thinking about ourselves." 1

These words...

They were meant for *me*.

The crowd murmured in agreement and nodded their heads. To them, it was his sincerity with the pack.

To me, it was a direct strike.

A sly smirk curled at the corners of Kiara's mouth. This confidence.

She got this confidence from the Luna and Alpha of the pack. I turned my head towards Jai, maybe because I wanted some sort of reaction.

The Jai I knew would have created a fuss if it were in the past. It seemed like people around me were showing me their true faces.

Just when I thought it couldn't get any worse, Beta Brian stepped forward, near the stage.

"I stand with my alpha," he declared in a clear, no-nonsense voice, "And I expect the rest of the pack to do the same."

Then he looked at me boldly, "Anyone who dares to mess with our head warrior on the ceremony day," he seemed to be speaking through gritted teeth, "he or she will be treated as my enemy. I don't care if it's a rogue or someone from our own pack."

A hush fell over the hall after this announcement.

And then I realized something. This meeting was not for every pack member.

It was for *me*. To remind *me* of my place. To let *me* know that not just Alpha and Luna were backing Kiara. The whole Blood Stone pack was behind her. 2

I could feel my throat suddenly going dry.

With a sigh, I opened my mouth to speak, but Jai's hand tightened around mine.

"Don't!" He whispered under his breath.

My eyes moved from Beta Brian to Kiara.

Bloody hypocrites.

Fuc*king parasites!

I am not going to give up! I told myself.

100 100- Their Move

They all had made their move.

Now I had to decide mine! 1

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