

Chapter 143

For the rest of the next day too, River and Hunter didn't go out of their room, choosing to stay with their pups and play with them. River wanted to meet the council the next day, but she postponed it. She really wanted to spend all the time with her pups and their father.

Hawk was particularly clinging to his mother and had no intention of leaving her. Often Arthur would also climb his mother's lap and play with Hawk or the two would end up fighting to take control over their mother.

By the end of the evening, both the boys were too exhausted. River laughed as she made them sleep on the bed beside her. At night too, the pups slept between her and Hunter. After the kidnapping incident, she had grown too possessive about them. And Hunter couldn't blame her. It was a harrowing experience.

In the morning, when she woke up, it was just 5 AM. She saw how the kids were curled up over their dad. Arthur was sleeping on his torso, while Hawk was over his forehead and Hunter—he was snoring like a bull. She laughed quietly at the sight and got up. After brushing her teeth, she went downstairs to take a light stroll in the garden. The sun hadn't risen up but the birds were chirping in the trees while some were trilling in the water fountain.

It had been a while since she had come out and this felt so good. She walked a little and then sat on a bench under a willow. She was watching the hills in the distance where the rays of sun were slowly unfolding, dispersing the mist that surrounded the forest. Finally, her worries were over. A smile played on her lips and she welcomed the new rays of sun.

"River," a soft voice from the side disturbed her reverie. When she snapped her head to look there, she saw Lena standing at a distance. River became tense. She remembered how Lena insisted that Hawk should stay in the Crescent pack and what ensued was horrendous. She lowered her face, averting her gaze from Lena. She didn't want to talk to her.

Lena came closer and sat on the bench, a little away from her. She said, "I know that you are angry with me, River, but you have to understand that it was just me being loyal to the pack and its members. We were only looking for its benefit."

"What do you mean, Lena?" River snapped. "I am the Alpha of the pack and no one can think better about the pack than me. But that—" she took a ragged breath in. "That was my pup. He was subjected to so much torture in such little age. Can you even imagine his trauma?" River blurted in anger. "Hawk is

too young but he has been clinging to me all the time ever since he has returned. What would have happened had that crazy man killed him? Huh? Tell me!"

Lena bit her bottom lip and looked away to stop her emotions from making her cry, but tears came out nevertheless. She didn't have words. She cried silently for a long time as she sat near River. A while later, River got up and walked away from there. She didn't want to speak with Lena or be with her. At least not for now. Lena was not only her Beta but also her friend. Maybe she was expecting Lena to understand more or whatever. But right now she just didn't want to talk to her.

River returned to her room only to find that her husband and pups were still sleeping and in the same position. Her lips curled up. These three were the source of joy in her life. She sat at the table and picked up a few documents that she had left three days back. For the next two hours River read every document carefully and was fully prepared for the meeting.

At 8 AM, when Hunter finally woke up, it wasn't because he wanted to, but because Hawk started crying. Seeing his brother, Arthur also started crying. Hunter stirred a little and lifted his son from his head to understand what was going on. "River!" he called her. "This one is hungry and has surely pooped in his diapers!"

As he gave Hawk to River, Arthur crawled up to his nipples and bit him there. "Arthur!" Hunter shrieked in pain. "God damn it River, feed this one too!"

River shook her head as she laughed and picked up both of them. As soon as the pups were off him, he went back to sleep, pulling a pillow over his head. River cooed her kids and sat on the bed as she fed them simultaneously. She stroked their soft hair as they sucked her milk. Being Alpha's son, both were pretty demanding.

She called Faria into the room who took the kids for the rest of their morning activities while ordering the servants to send a hearty meal for River. "You must have a lot of eggs, sea food and lentils," said Faria. "These pups are sons of two Alphas and one of them is the Lycan King. Can you imagine their appetite and needs?"

River sighed. She knew about it all. "I will," she said reluctantly because she didn't like lentils so much.

As Faria removed their diapers, she side-glanced at River and said, "I saw you and Lena in the garden in the morning. I don't know what happened between you, but it was Lena's quick and precise thinking that Hawk was saved."

At 10 AM Hunter and River were both ready for the much-awaited meeting. Lena was already there along with all other council members. The two friends were avoiding each other. River wondered if she would ever be able to talk to Lena in a friendly manner at all. But after what Faria told her, she was surely indebted to Lena for saving her son. But still, this wouldn't have happened if Lena wouldn't have been the mouthpiece of the Elders.

As she sat at the head of the table, Hunter sat on her right and Lena on the left. There was a silence across the council and everyone was looking at her only as if doubting that she was fine or not.

River could sense their anxiety. She didn't breach the subject of her pups. Instead she started with other issues that had to be dealt with earlier. For almost an hour, she dealt with them mechanically and got answers from the relevant members. She knew that everyone was circling around the main issue and it hung between them like an elephant. At the end of the meeting she broached the topic.

"I know that all of you are waiting for me to talk to you about Hawk," she said and scanned the room. Everyone was eager and had her attention. "Elders want my son to stay in the Crescent pack as soon as he turns five. However—" she paused and studied all of them. "I refuse!" She was hoping for someone to go against her, but none raised a voice. So she carried on. "I will not let Hawk stay away from me. He will come back to take over the Crescent pack after he turns eighteen. Until then, he will be staying with his parents and that is final!"

The council members started to look at each other but none spoke. Lena's eyes were fixed on the table. She didn't utter a word.

"I don't feel that Hawk will be safe without his parents. Having said that, I think we have to take out all those members who are a threat to others. Who could have thought that a little omega like Mink would have gone to the extent of kidnaping the Alpha's pup? There is a serious lack in the security of the pack because obviously we overlook this planning."

Some members shifted in their chairs because it was true.

"What about Mink's parents?" River asked. "Where are they?"

"They have been put under house arrest ever since this incident occurred, Alpha," her gamma replied.

"Interrogate them and see if they have more information about anyone else who is planning on another attack in the pack."

“Yes Alpha.”

River looked at Hunter and nodded. He took out a piece of paper from the inner pocket of his jacket and placed it on the table. She pointed at the paper. “This is the document that you all should sign and get it signed by the Elders. It states that no one will interfere in the upbringing of Hawk until he turns eighteen.”

Hunter passed the document to the member on his right. He read it and signed it. He passed to the next one and by the time River received it back, they had all signed it. River gave it to Lena and said, “It is your responsibility to get it signed by the Elders.”

Lena bowed to her, taking the document. It was then she said, “Alpha River, I would like to take a month’s break from my duties. I am very exhausted and—”

“Granted!” River replied immediately. “But get that paper signed before leaving.”

Lena was taken aback at River’s spontaneity in approving her holiday, but she immediately recovered and bowed to her.

River addressed her council again. “I am leaving with my pups for the Dark Moon pack today.” She looked at her gamma. “Whatever issues the pack has, you will be informing them to me until Beta Lena joins back.”

“Yes Alpha.”

The meeting was dismissed. Hunter and River came back to their room where Faria had already packed their luggage.



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