

Chapter 59

Zeke sat in his car in front of the administration block, still unsure of what he would do. A week ago, he would have handed Ava in with no problems, but now....

He'd risked his life for her. That hadn't been just Shadow's decision; he had willingly run headfirst into the cursed forest without a thought about his welfare. He hadn't thought about becoming Alpha or avenging his mother and the other members of his pack that Jared had gotten killed. He hadn't thought about Derek and Myles, the only members of the pack who treated him like family more than his actual blood.

It had been him. His decision. The moment he had known Ava was about to die, nothing else had mattered. Their bond gave him no choice, but that didn't matter anymore. Even if he rejected her, it was clear that he would still get messed up. She was in his blood. Part of him. She was his. And that was a painful realization

Only half an hour remained until training finished, and the other students would come out and see him. He wasn't in the mood to listen to their gossip, so he sighed and got out of his car. He was still weak from the silver that running here had been out of the question, and he needed to conserve whatever little energy he had gained back. He knew what his

punishment would be, and Shadow had retreated to recover, so he would not be much help to him.

He paused briefly at the dean's door before he knocked and entered. Penelope sat in her usual spot, but her eyes were already glued on him as he entered. She would have sensed him coming, and he could tell by the look in her eyes that she had questions.

He gave her a respectful nod as he stopped in front of her desk. He didn't mess with this one if he could help it; she was just as scary as the librarian.

"I'm here to see the dean if he has a moment," he stated politely

Of course, the dean would have a moment. Alpha Russell never kept him waiting. But this was the one time he wished he could have another moment to think things through.

Penelope picked up her phone and informed the dean of his arrival. As expected, she told him to go straight through.

Dean Russell put his paperwork aside the moment he walked in. He could tell by the stern set of his jaw and the tension in his shoulders that this wasn't going to go very well.

"Take a seat, please. Mr. Michelson."

He did as he was told and then looked directly at Alpha Russell.

“You were absent without permission. You know the rules, Mr. Michelson. No matter what business you must attend to, you need my permission.” Alpha Russel said curtly.

“I understand. I apologize.”

He wasn’t going to make up bullshit to get out of this, but he wasn’t going to provide information that wasn’t asked for, either.

“Given that we are still searching for Miss Claire Hubert and her friends, and a report has been made against you for attacking another student, is this all you’re going to say on the matter? That you apologize?” Alpha Russell growled.

“I did attack Miss Hubert on Friday but left her well with Mr. Anderson. Perhaps you should speak to him about her whereabouts.”

Even if he told them that Claire had attacked Ava, they would never believe him. The infirmary thought he was fucking with them when he took Ava in; they would not confirm his story. It seemed like Jared had left that part out, too, because the dean hadn’t mentioned Ava.

The dean growled and banged on his desk, but he pulled himself together quickly. Even now, when he was the one in trouble, they still had to think twice about angering Shadow.

“Mr. Michelson, we have the Council visiting us in a few short weeks, and I have some missing young wolves. That’s the last thing we need. I have to inform their parents by the end of the day. I should have done it yesterday, but I was holding out that you would do the right thing—”

“Wait, are you actually sitting there and accusing me of having something to do with their disappearance?”

“Mr. Anderson came forward with many witnesses, and I am inclined to-“

“You mean the weak, pathetic asshole who I’ve managed not to kill for three years conveniently came to you with a story in my final year at the academy? And you’re inclined to believe him for what reason?”

That was true Jared had never taken his time here seriously and was a pain in the dean’s ass. He never followed the rules. He, on the other hand, needed the rules, the routine, to keep his control. He had never been in trouble a day in his academic career.

Dean Russell had the grace to look down as he shuffled some papers.

“I understand you and Mr. Anderson have a history- “

“It’s more than that, and you know it. If anyone will meet their end at my hands, it will be Jared. You can write that down for the record if you haven’t already done so. But I will not sully my reputation or disrespect the Council by touching him before I am Alpha, Jared can try to ruin me as much as he wants, but the end result will be the same. He still has a year to live. I am a patient man, I can wait.”

The dean knew all about their ‘history, like everyone else. And they all knew Jared was on borrowed time. He wasn’t going to sugarcoat that.

The dean cleared his throat and then sighed.

“I will continue investigating the missing wolves, but you still broke the rules, Mr. Michelson. You admitted to attacking another student; therefore, you must take the punishment. Please wait in the waiting room to be escorted.”

He swallowed. Without Shadow at his best, he didn't know what he would be like at the end of it.

“How long?” he asked.

“Until Friday night. I'm sorry. I wish there was another way.”

He nodded. Four days and four nights. And Ava would be unprotected that whole time, For all he knew, this could have been Jared's plan all along. Claire could turn up tonight and finish the job she started.

He was aware that, once again, he was prioritizing the human, but he sighed and met the dean's gaze,

“I want another Omega,”

“Are two not enough for you. Mr. Michelson?”

“I have many needs” he shrugged.

The dean frowned and looked at him before he sighed and clicked on his screen.

“Fine. I’ll put a request in now-“

“No need, I have Ava Morgan,” he said as he stood up. “Thank you, Alpha Russell.”

He was out of the office and sitting in the waiting room before the dean could ask questions. He ignored Penelope’s probing gaze because the vampire had obviously listened in on that conversation and then linked his friends.

‘Guys I’m sorry. You’re right, we are brothers, and I will tell you everything as soon as I get back. I’ve asked for Ava to be our new Omega; please protect her!’

“How long did you get?” Derek asked.

He paused before he answered.

‘Until Friday.’

He listened to the inevitable curses and felt the pain of his friends through their bonds. He had fucked up, and there was nothing he could say that could make this better. Two men who were as big as he was walked into the office wearing the Campus security uniforms. A vampire and a witch. powerful ones as far as he could tell.

“Guys, I have to go. Derek, you’re in charge. Don’t let them hurt Ava. I’ll be okay!

And he cut the link.

He would not be okay. Shadow was too weak to help him.