

Chapter 7: Banished Wolf

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Banished. The word echoed in my head like a nightmare, but that's not even the worst part of it. It's the fact that River told me he never wanted to see me again.

Just a few days ago I was having the best time of my life with him. I was sure that this was where I belonged and believed one day that I was going to start my own family here.

Now I was running to my room in tears and as soon as I got there, I started pulling my things out. I can't believe it. I can't believe I was just kicked out of my own home while the ones that I considered my family did nothing but stare.

The only one that actually bothered to show any kind of compassion was Zane. I could feel his presence near my room, but he didn't come any closer. He can't.

After being banished, no one is allowed to go near them or communicate in any way. It's a crime punishable by torture. It didn't seem like a big deal back then because the banished is supposed to be someone so horrible to a fault that you never even



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want to be in the same vicinity, but this was different.

I... I don't deserve this. I don't deserve to be treated like some low life!

I wanted to scream and cry, but I knew I didn't have enough time. I continued to organize my things, not even sure if I had everything already. It was a good thing one of the helpers had arranged my things after taking it out of River's room so I had less work fixing them.

After less than five minutes, I'm hauling one large and one medium sized suitcases, in which I tried my utter best to try and fit everything in my nineteen years of life here.

"Ouch!" I screamed out in frustration when I tripped, almost face planting the floor.

When I turned around to look at the suitcase, I saw that one of the wheels had already broken. Just when I thought things couldn't get any worse, of fucking course it does.

"Fuck. Fuck. Fuck." I cursed continuously as I tried to figure out how to salvage my suitcase because if I couldn't then I would have no choice. I'd have to



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leave half of my things.

"Let me fix that."

Out of nowhere, Zane appears and crouches down on the floor, pulling the suitcase to him.

"You're not supposed to be here, Zane! You should go!" I said as a loud whisper before I sprinted towards the door and closed it gently, hoping nobody was around and saw him entering.

Zane didn't say anything. He just continued to do something with the wheels that I had no idea what.

"Zane, come on. You're going to get into trouble." I grabbed his arm to pull him up, but he quickly pulled it back.

Damn his hardheadedness. He was just like his father, which was the old Beta, too.

Knowing Zane, I knew that getting him to stop what he has set his mind on would be impossible so I just opted to do the next best thing – be on the lookout.

"It's done," he said after a few minutes and when I turned around he was right.

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The wheel that looked pretty much unusable was now placed back to its original position and rolled like nothing happened.

"How did you do that? I thought it was done for," I tell him amazed.

He shrugged his shoulders. "Easy fix." He said before another uncomfortable silence dominated the room.

"I, uh... I should get going, but can you stay here until I'm downstairs? People might see you walking out and that would be bad." I told him with my hands raised up in a stop gesture.

His reaction surprised me when he shook his head with a scoff. "Still looking out for others after being treated unfairly. You're really something, Keira."

Oh...

I fiddled with my fingers, another tear threatening to come out. All of a sudden, I feel strong and thick arms engulf me.

Zane takes me into his arms and hugs me tight like never before. We've hugged quite a few times, but not like this. Not in a way like he's never going to



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see me again and this would be the last time.

But then again, it likely was.

"Thank you, Zane, for everything. You've really been a true friend, but I should really go. I can't stay here any longer." I shook my head and with all the physical and emotional strength I could muster, managed to step away from his hold.

I take deep breaths. The deepest possible as I really try to calm myself. It felt like my whole world was crumbling right in front of me and there was just nothing I could do, but accept it.

I gripped onto the two suitcase handles before turning and speeding out of the room.

"I know you didn't do it, by the way." Zane says just as I was about to hold onto the door handle. "And I know River feels the same way. He just..." He pauses. "He just can't admit it. He's too blinded by her, and he's a fucking idiot, but I'll help him see the truth, okay? Just wait. Please. You'll be back home again in no time."

I heard his voice crack the slightest and I could feel his sadness and desperation.

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The last time I ever saw him like this was four years ago, when he got rejected. I wanted to believe his words. I really did. But believing in a lie was much harder than just accepting it.

I turned around, gave him one last smile, and carried on.

As I was walking out of the Castle, I passed by the Alpha crew. They were standing by the entrance, gathered there either to make sure I was leaving or saying their farewell without actually saying anything.

It hurt. It hurt because after years of friendship, neither of us could even have a hug or just have one eye contact as a goodbye.

I could also feel my connection to the White Howlers starting to fade. It happens when you're banished. Your mindlink, your wolf bond, and everything else will be gone in a day or two. Mine was going faster because my connection wasn't by blood.

Soon, no one here in this Pack will no longer feel me. It's as if I never even have existed here, in this place that I used to call home.

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I continued walking, dragging my suitcases behind me and keeping my head down.

"We loved you, Keira."

I stopped and looked up to see River's parents. They were looking at me with a face of hurt and at the same time disapproval.

Oh no. They already arrived. Earlier I was so relieved knowing they wouldn't have to see this, but of course, even that didn't work out for me.

Once upon a time, they were the closest thing I had to a family. Now they just saw me as a stranger that betrayed them.

I wanted to defend myself, but I knew nothing that I would say would ever change their minds because why would they ever believe to choose an outsider compared to their own son's mate?

I guess that's really who and what I was to them no matter how much time I spent with them – an outsider.

So I just kept walking, and walking.

"Keira! Where are you going?!" Skye runs up to me



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and pulls on my sweater. I still haven't changed from the clothes I got earlier.

"Are you leaving? You're not coming back?" Skye was looking at me on the verge of tears.

He may have turned thirteen now, but deep down he was still the same little boy that I babysat all those years ago. We would watch movies together, bake cookies, and run around the woods with him on my back. He was pretty much like a baby brother to me.

"Skye! Get back here!" Roman demanded, but he didn't budge. He kept on pulling my sweater and begging me not to go.

"You're my only sister! Please don't go!" He pleaded and I so badly wished I didn't have to go.

"It's okay, Skye. You have a new sister now. It's okay." I tried to reassure him.

"She's not my sister, nor will she ever be." He said so strongly I could have sworn I saw anger in his eyes.

Did he know? Maybe he did, and the thought of having him on my side made it a little more



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bearable to me.

It was just too bad the others didn't feel the same way.

Skye gets yanked away from me by his father and though he is screaming and pleading for me not to go, I keep walking because I don't have a choice. I was never given one.

As I continued to walk until I reached the end of our border, I realized one thing. One incredibly painful thing.

River wasn't there. He was nowhere to be found when I was leaving. Nineteen years together and he didn't even have the decency to see me go. Hell, I wouldn't have minded had he been there to scream at me to hurry up and leave. It would make more sense for him to be mad at me for hurting his Luna and personally kicking me out, but that? Not even bothering to show up?

It's like he banished me and decided to wash his hands from it, from what he had done, pretend like it didn't happen and move on with his life.

Asshole. Fucking asshole.

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I took a deep and lungful breath before linking him, using the last bit of connection I had with him and his Pack that would fade away any minute from now.

"Fuck you, River Colden. I'm never letting you nor your stupid Luna hurt me again."

I don't know if he received it or not, but knowing that I got it out there definitely managed to lift some weight off my chest.

After one last deep breath, Fuyu and I pushed on.



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