

78

: Xavier's pov :

I stormed out of the pack house, my body trembling with unleashed anger. Reckon was furious, livid in fact. He wanted his mate back in our arms.

We were ready for war.

But as I scan my eyes over the fighters of my pack, I am aware that some did not seem to want to fight at all. Which was worrisome. For them, not me.

"Why is no one in their positions and ready to take off!?" I snarled through the air.

"Have the Crimson Moon warriors gone weak?" I sneered when no one answered just looked away.

A boy, not older than twenty looked at me and thought it was a good idea to speak. "We think it's a stupid idea to go against Raphael right now, especially when he has the wolfsbane. And now that he has the Luna. He can make more -

"Are you saying you'd much rather leave your Luna to die!?" I snarled taking a menacing step forward. He needs to choose his words carefully. I may not be as patient as I portray.

The boy squirms and bends his head. "No, of course not."

It's quiet, even the wind seems to have stopped brushing the leaves in the trees. And the stench in the air.....I breathed it in, in repulse.



Fear.

"You fear. Since when had we gone so weak that we fear wolfsbane?" I spat out the word fear. The crimson moon pack was powerful, the most, and we had managed to instill fear into the hearts of many.

We cannot succumbed to fear. That was a feeling we don't dance with. It was never an issue.

Another boy answered, his voice not as brave as the first one. "Since our own Luna has it in her blood."

I scanned around the wolves whose heads were down and then it clicked.

"You all fear her. You don't fear the wolfsbane, you fear your Luna. You fear her so badly that you think it will be easier to have Raphael get rid of her." I said coldly.

Weak. They had gotten weak.

They didn't have to answer, I already knew by the lack of their words.

Surprisingly I wasn't stunned by it all. Perhaps if I were in their shoes I would have feared Aurora too. Especially not knowing her full potential.

My eyes shift to the woods and Reckon nudged me. I needed to go to her. I needed to save her. I had no time to rally pussies.

I will fight alone if I have to.

Turning back to the pack, I said loudly so every single one of them will hear. "I will give you a choice. Those who will willingly put their life on the line for their Luna shall join me. Those who can't fight this battle shall incise the bond of the pack and shall be renamed rogue."



I turn to leave not caring if any of them followed. But when I take that step towards the woods and ready to shift, a voice I didn't think I'd hear anytime soon yells.

"Don't you dare leave without me!"

I turn around to see Eli limping to catch up with me with Chris behind him shaking his head. "He didn't want to stay behind," Chris grumbles and sent a glare at the back of his brother's head. 1

"My Luna has been kidnapped, there's no way I'll stay back and not fight to free her. Besides, I can't have you two have all the fun." His lips lift into a smile.

"You can barely walk!" Chris pointed out.

"My claws and teeth still work. I'm still quick too, see...." Eli turns around so quickly that Chris hadn't had time to react to the flick he received on his forehead. 1

Scowling at him Chris also pointed out. "Rodrick says you'll not be able to shift yet too."

"And that's where you come in brother. You'll carry me on your back. Oh come on don't look at me like that, I'm not heavy!" Eli snapped. 1

I looked between the two brothers and fought off a smile. When Eli is beside me, I pat his back. "Welcome back Beta."

"Glad to be back alpha." He puffed out his chest but a second later coughs. "Still need to wait for those lungs to fully heal." He says between coughs.

My brows pinched in worry. "Are you sure you'll be able to come along



Eli? Your body hasn't fully healed-

"I'm fighting alongside you and that's it."

I had to calm down Reckon a bit since he thought Eli was being too bold to speak to us like that. But Reckon was just on edge and everything would get us angered right now. 1

"Good news too alpha, Rodrick's close to creating that cure for Lily thanks to the blood Aurora gave." Christopher had a beaming smile on his face, one that surprised me a little seeing as he never was one to show his happy side.

But his words were great news indeed. And I had truly needed it.

"Luna donated blood to help Lily?" The same boy who said it was stupid to go to war with Raphael now asked in surprise.

"Yes. She's also trying to help Rodrick make a cure to counter the wolfsbane so we won't lose other members of the pack." Chris said with pride. It was startling to hear him speak so highly of Aurora since I did sense he had not fully trusted her yet.

But now. Something had changed. Something that I sensed had made him admire my mate.

The wolves looked amongst themselves and suddenly the boy stepped forward with his head held high. "I will fight alongside you alpha. I vouch to put my life on the line for our Luna."

As soon as he said those words, the others joined him until there was only one left. An older man, a man who had been Samuel's friend.

I expected him to turn around and turn rogue, but he surprises me by

kneeling and bowing his head. "I pledge to serve you my alpha and also my Luna. I will put my life on the line to get our Luna back."

{Aurora's pov}

How much did this woman know?

I looked over at Raphael, now fearing what he would do to me now that Essi spewed out my secret.

But he surprises me by laughing. The laugh was loud, so loud that I was sure the wolves in the pack heard it.

But then suddenly, his laugh ceases and a smirk so mocking made me swallow. "And to think I have the most feared alpha's mate and unborn child in my hold, it's just amazing!" He roared into another fit of laughter.

I squirmed in the wolf's hold, wanting to be anywhere but here.

I bit my tongue when Raphael stopped laughing, his gaze falling to my stomach. "Just a few days and you're already carrying his seed!" He snorted. "You are a whore." He nods as if pleased with his words.

He retracts his hold from my wrist. He pointed the blade at my stomach and fear nearly crippled me. "An abomination to the wolf community."

"The vampire whore is lying. There's no way Xavier's seed caught so soon." Adrian spat, her eyes gleaming with resentment and jealousy.

"If you really focus your senses you can feel another presence, a little faint but still there in her body," Essi said, her gaze still on my stomach in surprise.



Adrian snarls, her eyes falling to my stomach to look at it in disgust, her eyes flashed. "You are not worthy of carrying his seed!"

Raphael grips her arm just before she could come over to me.

"Now now Adrian. You'll have your fun with her soon. But not now, we need to study the whore, now more than ever as she's pregnant. Perhaps study her fetus after we remove it from her womb-

"No!" I yelled, finding my voice as I struggle in the hold of the wolf. "I'll not have you hurt my baby!"

Raphael's eyes gleamed wickedly. "Now now, settle down Aurora. You can't possibly think I'll allow you to bring Xavier's heir into the world? I'd be doing the world a favor, you should be grateful!"

Suddenly rage consumed my body so strongly that my body stilled. Raphael smiled in satisfaction when he noticed I wasn't struggling anymore but then his smile wavered and he looked at me confused.

He snaps his gaze to Essi. "Why are her eyes glow-

His words get cut off by a loud pattering then the sound of crows crying. The crying was faint but soon it got louder and louder until it was almost deafening.

"What the hell is going on?!" Raphael roared as he turned around to witness a crow slamming into the glass window.

Then another and another until the room bathed in darkness as if it was night. I'm surprised I can see them all through the darkness, but I don't ponder on my newfound ability.

No, rage had nearly taken me hostage as I looked at the crows blocking



the entire window.

They were crowing so loudly, yet the sound didn't seem to affect my ears.

Raphael turns to me, his eyes blazing. "You! You're doing this!" He roared and just as he said those words, the pattering turned to the sound of glass shattering.

The crows flew in, crying loudly as they aimed for everyone in the room except for me.

Raphael growled while fighting off the birds pecking while Adrian and Essi cursed.

The wolf who held me, loosened his hold to fight off the crows attacking his face and by doing so allowed me to slip out of his hold.

I wasn't sure what was going on or how I was controlling the actions of the crows. But I didn't want to waste time thinking much of it.

No. I needed to get Cass and get out of here.

So while the wolves fought off the relentless crows, I turned on my heel and slipped away from the wolf's hold. He growled trying to reach out for me again but another wave of crows entered the room, so many that it was nearly impossible to see everyone.

"Aurora!" Raphael growled, hissing. "I will kill you!" He snarled.

I don't listen to his words and rushed to the door, thankful that the crows were parting to give me room to reach it.

But when my hands are on the handle I hear the growl of a wolf and knew that Raphael had shifted.



Not sure the crows could hold him, I opened the door quickly. But when I do so, crows flew into the hallway.

Doors opened and the wolves of the Crystal River screamed when the crows went to attack them.

"Get her!" I hear a loud yell behind me as I started running down the hallway.

Another shatter of glass and roaring screams downstairs mingled into the air as I watch in shock at the many crows flying upstairs.

I ducked and fought my way through them as they relentlessly attacked the wolves.

I stumbled on the stairs when I notice male wolves, those who were warriors storming up the stairs towards me. The crows were slowing them down.

I looked around, anxious for a way out.

"Aurora!" Adrian screeched loudly.

I gasp suddenly when a woman appears in front of me.

A witch.

The same one who helped Adrian capture me.

I twist around, losing my balance a little but manage to grip the railing before I tumble down the stairs. I turn slightly to see the male wolves on their way towards me while fighting off the crows.

I had no way out.

I held my stomach, clenching my eyes tightly.

I promise to keep you safe baby. I promise I'll fight to keep you safe.

Opening my eyes with a new sense of determination, I warned the woman. "Stay back." I slowly take a step back while keeping my gaze on her.

She takes a step forward and suddenly the entire floor shakes beneath my feet. It feels like rolling thunder. I held the railing tightly so I'd not fall.

"What the fuck?" A male wolf shouted in shock.

I look down and I'm shocked to see huge roots bursting from the concrete floor, whipping around and knocking into wolves.

I hear groans and hear the tearing of clothes as the wolves are forced to shift to fight off the thick sharp tree roots.

Was I doing that too?

I looked down at my hand. There was a pressure there, a slight tingling.

Maybe if I can direct it somehow.....

"It would be easier to come quietly." The witch mumble, her gaze an odd shade of grey. She had no pupils.

I shook my head, trying to focus my intentions on the roots. If I can somehow just direct them -

I watch in amazement when a large root pierces through the concrete and stabs into the wall, barely missing the witch's face.

"I won't come quietly. I won't have him hurt my baby. Or anyone else I



love. He had done for too many years, no more." I uttered, slowly walking back as I skim my hand down the railing.

The witch's eyes lowered a little and she looked at me in sympathy. "I'm sorry." She whispered before lunging at me.

I gasp when the tree root moves out of the wall to pierce through her. Blood splatter on my face as she breathes in sharply.

Her hands go to her chest, touching the sharp root that pierced through her. She looks down and when her gaze lifts, I noticed quickly that the odd glare of grey in her eyes had diminished and her pupils were now visible.

"Thank you." She whispered before her body goes limp and her head drops.

I stare in horror. I had just killed someone.

But I can't ponder on it for too long because suddenly the crows down the hall get louder and I knew why.

Raphael was making his way over here, quickly. I can hear the heaviness of his paws hitting the floor beneath them and the loud growl of anger that warned me he was coming for me.

He was coming.

I can see his wolf bounding over to me, snarling and trying to shake the crows away from him.

I looked behind me, I can't go down, there were still so many male wolves trying to make their way to me despite the crows pecking at them relentlessly.



I needed to find another way out.

I took a peek down below. I couldn't jump, it was way too high.

Suddenly I can feel a warm liquid under my toes and looked down. It was blood.

I looked at the woman I just killed and asked her to forgive me in my head before an idea came to mind. The tree root moves out of her body and wraps around my waist. It's not tight to raise alarm, but snug enough to hold me.

Raphael picks up speed, snarling as he bounds over to me. I held my breath as I guide the tree root. My feet hover above the ground as the root picks me up and carry me over the railing just in time to escape alpha Raphael's jaws.

I felt his warm breath brushing against my hand as he snaps his jaw to try to get a hold of me. But he's too late. I'm already away from the railing and away from him, hovering high above the ground floor.

Holding the thick root I looked down. I needed to get to Cassandra so we can get out of here.

"Stop her!" Raphael roared and I turned to see that he had shifted back into his human form, so enraged that the pecking of the crows didn't seem to bother him anymore.

Determined to not get in his hold anymore and determined to keep my baby safe, my hands tingled and I looked down to see more roots emerge out of the ground.

Slamming and breaking the tiles as they aimed to attack the wolves. Some wrapped around their midriff, slamming them down to plaster on

the floor.

Raphael grows as he shifted into his wolf again and tries to duck and escape the relentless roots.

I didn't want to kill anyone again. I didn't want anyone's blood on my hands.

So I move my focus on murder and just try to block his path with the roots as I guide the root holding me down and closer to the door that led to the dungeon where Cass was held.

When my feet are plastered to the floor, I don't look back and run towards the door as I hear the wolves struggle to get out of the roots captive.

"Aurora!" Adrian screamed from above.

I turn around to see her. She was beside the witch I had killed. "I will kill you, you whore!" She snarls, swatting at the crows who tried to feed on her flesh.

Narrowing my eyes, I turn around ignoring her as I opened the door and rushed down the nasty steps. I'm careful to not slip.

I ran through the darkness, adjusting my eyes until I could somehow make out every cell.

"Cass!" I yelled searching for her.

I gasp when hands push through the cell to try to grasp me. "Take me with you." A male voice grumble. He was a rogue and by the aura I could feel emanating off of him, I knew he wasn't a good man.

I moved away from his cell a little and continued on my way. "Cass!" I yelled, frantically searching for her.

"Rora!" Cassandra yelled back a couple of cells down.

I picked up my pace and run over to her.

The sound of the roots breaking through concrete and smacking the walls and floors as they try to weave through the wolves to stop their advances gets louder.

"Rora!" Cass yelled, running towards the steel bars as I get to her. "How did you get out?" She asked in surprise as she looks me over.

"No time to explain. Get back." I rushed out.

I didn't know how we'd get out of the dungeon seeing as every wolf was upstairs including Raphael so it wouldn't be the best decision to go back that way. But I knew one thing. I will get us out of here. I was going to fight back.

I will not go down without a fight.

Thankfully Cass takes a step back, a second later huge roots crack through the concrete and wrapped around the steel bars tightly.

Cass stumbles back in shock while I get out of the way as the roots harshly pull at the bars until they came out.

Cass looks at the steel bars still being held by the roots, eyes wide with shock as she breathed out. " That was badass."

