Chapter 245: Stop The Fight!

Music recommendation: "Feel It Still" by Portugal. The Man

"Aria!" one of the girls cried, but she was already too far gone to listen.

"You've been begging for an ass beating all night. Fine. I'll give you one!"

Aria was on top, fury blazing through her as she drew back her arm. Karen's eyes widened just before her fist connected with her cheek, snapping her head sideways.

"Ouch!"

Karen recovered quickly. With a curse, she grabbed the front of Aria's coat and wrenched her sideways. Aria lost her balance, and Karen seized the opportunity to roll them over.

"You fucking bitch!"

Karen swung, but Aria jerked her head aside just in time. Her fist struck the floor instead, and the sharp cry that escaped her gave Aria the opening she needed.

She shoved Karen off with both hands, scrambled after her and caught a fistful of her hair before she could get away.

Karen screamed. "LET GO OF MY HAIR!"

Aria responded by grabbing another handful and using Karen's face to wipe the floor. Karen's shriek could probably be heard from the other side of the arena.

For several seconds, everyone around them simply stared. The entire thing had happened so quickly that no one had quite caught up with the fact that Aria—the same person who had spent all night telling them not to give Karen the satisfaction—was currently trying to scrub the floor with her.

"Holy shit," Variant breathed.

Brittney stared for perhaps half a second before sheer delight spread across her face.

"That’s my fucking girl!"

"Don’t encourage her. Stop the fight!" Alek snapped.

"Why the hell not?" Brittney cupped her hands around her mouth. "Get her, Aria!"

Dimitri swore under his breath. This had gone from irritating to disastrous in less than ten seconds.

He started toward the two women, intending to pull Aria off before she scalped Karen, but Fatima and Olivia rushed forward at the same time.

"Get off her!"

Fatima grabbed Aria by the shoulder, but she never got the chance to pull her away because Brittney smacked her hand aside.

"Don’t fucking touch her."

Fatima whirled on her. "Don’t touch me! Stay out of this."

"You just made it my business."

Brittney planted both hands against her chest and sent her stumbling backward.

Fatima caught herself against a seat. Her expression changed instantly, and she charged forward, slamming both palms into Brittney.

Brittney rocked back a step. Then her eyebrows rose.

"Oh, you really shouldn’t have done that."

Before anyone could intervene, Brittney lunged. Fatima barely managed to throw up her hands before Brittney crashed into her, and they went tumbling across the seats.

And just like that, there were four humans fighting in the middle of House Therion.

Unfortunately, things only deteriorated from there.

Trisha and Alek tried to intervene, but fights had an unfortunate way of dragging people into them.

Trisha Thorne had just managed to seize Brittney around the waist when Olivia swung blindly and smacked her across the face.

She froze.

Slowly, Trisha released Brittney.

Olivia froze too. "Oh, shit."

Trisha touched her cheek. Then she slapped Olivia so hard her head snapped to the side.

"Okay, now I'm involved."

Alek didn't fare much better. She attempted to reach Aria, who was still beating the living daylights out of Karen.

"Stop!"

Liv grabbed Alek from behind before she could get to them.

"Don't! That bitch deserves whatever comes to her."

If Aria wanted to teach Karen a lesson she would never forget, Liv certainly wasn't going to stop her. After everything Karen had put them through, perhaps getting her face rearranged was exactly what she needed.

"What the fuck?" Alek twisted around, incredulous. "Get your fucking hands off me!"

She wrenched herself free, but she used more force than intended, sending Liv stumbling backward. Her back struck the edge of a chair, and pain lanced through her.

Alek stopped. For one fleeting second, they stared at each other.

"That was an accident. I didn't mean to."

Liv grimaced as she straightened.

Maybe. But if Alek was determined to stop Aria, then there was one very simple way to keep her occupied.

Liv charged at her.

"What the—"

They went down.

Within seconds, all eight humans were embroiled in it. Hair was being pulled and clothes were being yanked. Brittney was yelling obscenities while trying to climb over a seat after Fatima, Trisha and Olivia were trading blows, and somewhere beneath the commotion, Karen was still screaming at Aria to let go.

It was absolute chaos.

"Enough!"

Dimitri waded into the mess. Variant and Valerie joined him, all three attempting to pry bodies apart before someone broke a bone.

Several Ophidian beasts had already risen from their section when the fight began. The moment they saw Therion members putting their hands on the Ophidian humans, they mistook an attempt to break up the fight for an attack.

"Get your fucking hands off them!"

Dimitri barely had time to look up before an Ophidian male barreled into him. The force sent both of them crashing into a row of seats.

Variant spun around. "What the hell?"

An Ophidian female shoved her away from Olivia and Variant shoved her right back. That was all it took.

A Therion beast vaulted the barrier separating the sections and tackled another Ophidian male before he could get any closer. Someone from Ophidian went after him. Two more Therion beasts surged forward, and within seconds, the original fight between a handful of humans had become almost impossible to distinguish from everything happening around it.

"STOP!" Valerie shrieked, ducking as somebody's fist sailed over her head. "WE WERE TRYING TO BREAK THEM UP!"

But nobody listened.

The disturbance spread through the adjoining rows with astonishing speed. Therion and Ophidian beasts who hadn't even seen how the fight started joined the fray simply because their House was already in it.

Of course, Rhydian and Maverick weren't oblivious to the commotion.

At first, neither paid it much attention, too immersed in trading blows with the singular intention of seeing the other one fall. It was only when they broke apart that Maverick noticed the crowd was no longer watching them.

His chest heaved as he wiped the blood from his mouth. Then his gaze shifted beyond Rhydian.

A massive disturbance had swallowed Therion’s section of the stands. The exact place where Aria should have been sitting.

Maverick went still.

"No, no, no..."

Rhydian heard him and turned, following Maverick’s stare. Whatever aggression remained on his face disappeared.

Nooo.... Treasure...