

Chapter 11

MADDOX

I hated my father now more than ever before because he fucked up everything in my life. Calvin Stark did not care about anyone except himself of course.

Beauty and I had finally turned some positive corner where she could actually tolerate my presence. So, what did I do? I pushed her away. It was not because I wanted to but was honestly for her own safety.

(Flashback)

The ringing of my phone caught my attention. Grabbing it, I flopped down onto my bed. Great, it was my father. What could he possibly want now?

"I heard that three members of the Supernatural Council were at the academy last week," he said.

Yes, that was him 100%. No greetings. No fondness. Not even a hint of warmth in his voice. I was used to it by this point. It was the way he had always been after all.

"I don't know who all is on it. Which three were here?" I asked him. It was true after all.

"Alpha Theo, King Jackson, and Luna Ziyah."

His tone held impatience, a silent warning for me not to piss him off further or else he would do something that I did not want to happen. He was not a forgiving man, a lesson that I had been taught since I

was a pup.

My gut turned with the fact that he had an interest in them being here. His interest in people was never a good sign.

"Ah. Yes, they were," I said, hoping that he would drop it right there.

"And you didn't think to inform me about it? You're there for a reason."

I got up from my bed and began to pace, hoping that it would keep me from telling him exactly what I thought about him. My hand rested over the physical reminder of the last time I had done just that. It was a six-inch scar from where he jammed a dagger into me and ripped it through my flesh. It was silver, so it healed but took a long time to do just that.

"I wasn't aware that I needed to inform you because you've yet to tell me the purpose of me coming here," I stated as calmly as possible.

There was a pause on the other end of the line. Hopefully, I could finally get a hint as to what his agenda really was. All that I had been told was that I would know when he wanted me to.

"Out of all the academies, that one is the one where the Council's children attend. Your purpose is to find out all that you can about them. The Council is responsible for my brother's death and the demise of his pack. Your uncle, Cameron, was the Alpha of the Forest Trails pack. The Council has been known to take out certain packs in order to obtain their resources. The pack, before the Council executed the majority of them, was thriving and had access to diamond mines. As you can imagine, it made the pack extremely profitable. They had no fucking right to do what they did, but that

was all they are good for. They take what they want no matter what it costs others. It's not just shifters either. They're systematically taking control of the other species as well."

Uncle Cameron... I vaguely remembered hearing that name before. It would not surprise me if I had a whole slew of relatives running around because my father was not someone who even believed in family. They were a weakness to him after all.

"So, I'll send you a list of their names so that you can identify them and assess their weaknesses because the Council will change one way or another."

(End of Flashback)

That was why I had to keep my distance because I refused to put her in danger as much as it killed me to treat her like she was nothing special at all.

She probably hated me for a couple of the things I had said to her, and I would not blame her. It was better this way even if my heart did not agree. Beauty was extremely special. Someone would have to be a total fucking idiot to think otherwise.

I could not risk her getting in my father's crosshairs. That man was a true sadistic fucker. He loved using creative torture techniques to gain what he wanted. He would not just kill her. No, he would do something worse. He would slice her humanity away inch by painful fucking inch.

Was everything he said truthful? I had absolutely no clue. Did he even know how to tell the truth?

I had only ever encountered the adults when they came after Beauty's attack. They had all three been extremely thankful for me helping her like I did. There was a lack of observation for me to conclude either way.

'We could always just rip his throat out. Then we never have to deal with him again,' Neo proposed.

He was not wrong about that. Did it make me a bad person to say that I was tempted? Not for me but to ensure that Beauty stayed free from his clutches. If he learned about me saving her then he would try to weaponize me to further his agenda.

I really wished that I could tell her that it was for her protection that I was handling things the way that I was. Sadly, I could not even do that. Nah. I was stuck looking like a complete fool and utter jackass.

KALEN

Today was Grant and Gabriel's eighteenth birthday party. It was a huge deal so a fuckton of people were invited to come.

A large outdoor area was set up with something for everyone. The most important area was where all of the grilling was going on. There were twenty different grills being utilized at the same time. The scents wafting across the breeze were mouthwatering. There were also bounce houses, games for the younger ones, some geared towards teens and adults, DJ, and a dance floor.

I was doing my best to remain focused on the party, but it was difficult to accomplish. Breaking away from everyone, I went to grab

something to drink.

Maddox – my thoughts revolved around that arrogant asshole, and I could not help it even if I wished that I could.

Following my attack, we started talking more. It was not much, but anything compared to nothing was something. Then it all changed one day. It was like he wanted nothing to do with me. It was like he was trying to push me away, but I could not fathom why. When he realized that I was not going to just give up without at least talking, he started spewing bullshit, intending on it hurting me.

Why did I care? Because I felt there was something behind his behavior, a driving force. One of my Vessel abilities was that I could detect emotional climates if I utilized the ability. It was how I could feel the conflict within him as well as the need to protect any time that he was around me. Was he trying to protect me by pushing me away?

I headed inside of the public restrooms that they had built a few years back since they often utilized this area for events.

My hands gripped the sink as I stared at my reflection. I looked like I needed a solid week of sleep. There had been more visions, which prevented me from getting the beauty sleep that I needed.

Pain gripped inside of me, making it feel like fire was spreading out from my heart. What in the fuck was going on right now? I had never felt anything like this before. Then it felt like the fire was licking up my spine. Goddess... fuck, fuck, fuck.

'Mom,' I croaked out. 'I need you. I'm in the public restrooms. Please just you.'

 +15 BONUS

Tears leaked from my eyes. Then I sat on the floor and curled in on myself in hopes of alleviating it.



Shana Allen

 Author

The vision in the next chapter will explain more about Alpha Cameron while also sharing some revelations.

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