




Chapter 6: Lily

When I arrive in Shadow Falls, Leana is ready to go. She's already said goodbye to everyone, so we head out quickly. We run for a couple of hours before we stop, taking a break. We shift and stop to eat, knowing we're getting close to another pack's land. We'll have to stop and announce ourselves before we cross their borders.

"Tell me what happened." Lea says as we start to eat.

So, I tell her the story. "Hopefully we won't run into any problems. A week isn't that long to get there, especially knowing that we'll have to stop periodically to cross pack lines and there's King Urien's land we'll have to pass through. Plus, if we have time, I'd like to take a quick stop at the council and let them know I'll be taking up my seat soon. But only if we have time." 

When we're done eating, we head to the pack's border, waiting for their patrol to come to us. When they do, we introduce ourselves and seek permission to cross their lands.

I watch the patrol lead mind link his Alpha or Beta. "Where are you headed, Guardians?" He asks us.

"Araphyra."

"The land of the fae?" He asks, his face showing his surprise.

"Lily is the mate of Prince Aolis. We are going to see him." Leana explains.

"I see." He says before mind linking again.

I smell him before I can see or hear him. Leana must catch his aura as we both turn our heads at the same time. The Alpha comes running up in his



wolf form. His patrol bow their heads in respect as he shifts.

"Guardian Lily, Guardian Leana. I am Alpha Leonardo. It's nice to meet you both. Do I understand that you want to cross my territory?"

"Yes, Alpha, that is correct. We are going to Araphyra."

"Is it true that you can tell when someone is lying?" He asks and I look at Leana. It was her mother's Guardian gift and Leana inherited it.

"Yes, I can." Leana says.

"May I impose upon you before you cross? We captured a rogue recently and I feel like he is lying to me, but I can't be sure. It would be very helpful if you would help us. It won't take long, and I'd be happy to give you a place to sleep for the night." He looks between us. "The next pack is hours away by wolf. You'd be better stopping here for the night, getting a good meal in you, a hot breakfast and then we can escort you to our borders in the morning."

Leana looks at me. "Let's see how long it takes for the rogue interview and we'll decide after that." I say.

"Okay." Leana says to him.

"Thank you so much. I really appreciate this." Alpha Leonardo says.

"Were you attacked by rogues recently?" I ask as Alpha Leonardo leads us toward his holding cells where he has the rogue captive.

He turns his head, looking at us. "Yes, a very well-trained rogue pack. I call them a pack because they acted like one."

I look at Leana. "Shadow Falls was attacked recently by a similar group of rogues."



His eyes narrow. "Interesting. I'll reach out to Alpha Richard."

I follow them into the dungeons and even though I can't feel when someone is lying, my senses are more heightened than most. I watch as Alpha Leonardo enters the cell with the rogue who looks like he's been beaten. He's sitting on a stool in the middle of the cell, his arms bound to the stool that is nailed to the floor. His feet are tied to the bottom of the stool, making him incapable of standing or moving.

When he sees Leana and I, he snarls. "Guardians."

"Oh good, you know who they are. That will make this so much easier." Alpha Leonardo says.

"We hoped you were dead." The rogue says to Leana and I.

"Guardians aren't so easy to kill." Hera pushes forward, snarling back at him.

"You said you don't answer to an Alpha." Alpha Leonardo begins his questioning.

"Nope, sure don't." The rogue says, his eyes moving between me and Leana.

"That's true." Leana says, and the rogue's eyes snap to hers.

"So, it's true. There is a bitch that can tell when we're lying." The rogue says, a moment before Alpha Leonardo's fist slams into his face.

"Watch your mouth." He snarls at him.

He leans over, spitting blood onto the floor. There's something about this rogue, something...off. I take a step forward, sniffing the air. Under the scent of rogue, I smell it.



"You used to be a Beta." Now his eyes flash to mine, narrowing at me before a low growl erupts from him. His eyes begin to darken as his wolf pushes forward. He doesn't like that I recognized his previous rank. Or, is it his current rank?

Hera pushes forward and I see the Alpha subtly step back, letting Leana and I take over. "Stand down, Beta."

"I am no longer a Beta." He snaps.

"Lie." Leana says, watching him curiously.

"A Beta with no Alpha. How is that possible?" Alpha Leonardo asks.

The rogue shrugs, refusing to answer.

"Who do you serve as second in command?" I ask the question differently.

"Wouldn't you like to know?" He smirks at me. Alpha Leonardo's fist smashes into his face again.

"I would actually." I say as I begin pacing, tapping my lips with my finger as I watch him.

"What other supernaturals would a werewolf work for?" Leana asks out loud. It's more for the Alpha and his pack. She and I are on the same page.

"Fae?" One of the warriors asks.

The rogue scoffs at that.

"No." Leana says thoughtfully.

"Vampire?" Alpha Leonardo says, watching the rogue carefully.



The rogue snarls but refuses to answer.

"Vampire." Leana confirms.

His eyes flick back to hers. "I didn't answer the question."

"You didn't have to." She tells him.

He moves, trying to go at her. Alpha Leonardo and another warrior grab him, slamming him back onto the stool.

Alpha Leonardo nods his head toward the door, indicating that he'd like for all of us to step out. When we're outside he takes a deep breath. "What do you think it means? Have you heard anything about vampires and werewolves working together?"

"No, but now we need to stop by the council." Leana says, looking at me.

She's right. If there is an uprising starting, we need to find out what the council members know about it. Or at least inform them of what we know.

"We'll have to detour around King Urien's lands to get there. I'd rather find out what they know first before entering into a vampire's territory." I say to Leana.

"Agreed."

"Then, please, let me put you up for the evening. Even if you don't stay for breakfast, I can make sure that you are fed this evening and have a safe place to sleep. It's the least I can do for your assistance." Alpha Leonardo says to us.

I look at the sky. It's early, but we'll never make it to the council before dark and we'll be forced to sleep outside. While that's not uncommon for wolves, this is an area we're not familiar with and now we may be



looking at vampires and werewolves working together who are intent on getting rid of Guardians.

"Thank you, Alpha Leonardo. We'd be happy to take you up on your offer."

"Excellent. If you're staying anyway, any chance I could convince you to have a sparring session with my pack warriors this evening?" He asks, his eyes shining with his excitement.

Leana and I look at each other and we can't help but smile. His pack has no idea what they are in store for.



Cooper author

"Hello everyone! I hope you are enjoying this story so far. My current update plan is 5-7 chapters a week, with bonus chapters when the characters get chatty with me. :) If this is your first book of mine 🐾"

 88