

12

Dawn

They led me to a Lab that contained everything I needed. I was impressed by the sheer size of it. It was also well-equipped. Creekside didn't have anything like that in all its years. Mother had some tubes for mixing herbs, but that was it.

The lab was dusty and full of cobwebs. According to them, it had been locked up for decades.

The triplets looked spooked and refused to enter the Lab with us. Even Kaden looked a tad uncomfortable.

"What's wrong?" I asked, clearing the cobwebs with my arms.

"Rhys boarded this place up after both his parents died and banned everyone from coming here or even mentioning it. It belonged to his mother." Kayla said from the door.

I froze. "Yeah?" I asked, my voice breaking.

A beat of silence passes before I turn around.

"You know what? Let's go to the infirmary. I can borrow some containers from the kitchen. Or just simply crush them, mix the pulp in water and strain it out. We don't need the lab."

Princess dragged my arm, "Rhys wouldn't mind. Besides, you're about to save five kids who have been chained and unconscious for about a week. He cares about that more than anything. My cousin might be an asshole, but I'm sure he'll be angrier if any mishap comes to you or those children."

"She's right." Kaden conceded, "But ..."

Princess hushed him up and pulled me further into the lab, causing me to sneeze.

My brain was still reeling at the mention of the word cousin. It meant that Princess was Rhy's blood relative. I thought Marcus was supposed to be his last relative.

I was confused, but I let Princess lead me to the workstation.

They were all so helpful, but I prefer working alone. I tried to shoo them away, but they remained stuck to me like glue. After two grueling hours, I

was able to distill enough portions for the little kids.

I was a bit hungry, and the rest of my crew had become bored. It made me wonder if they didn't have duties in the pack and if they were mooching off like me.

I couldn't remember ever having free time. The past few days had been eventful, but what was I going to do when all this was over?

The triplets talked about training with them, and it made me even more confused about what they were supposed to be. They had an odd dainty look to them. Even Princess had a more agile and strong feature than them. They had the most makeup on and were the most dressed and whimsical out of all the females I'd come across.

Yet, they'd been the ones to transform and go after the little boy and had been very protective of me.

We headed to the clinic. The staff of the clinic eyed me skeptically as they led me to the room where the children were laid. The pack members, though, had a completely different reaction.

I could feel their awe and curiosity. I heard whispers of praise that made my step falter. This was new to me, I'd never been regarded as something other than a spineless omega.

A mini crowd followed us, but were held back by the staff. A weeping woman clawed her way through and dashed to me. The desperation in her movements shook me. Reflexively, I stepped back. In a flash, the triplets formed a wall before me.

"Please," She cried as the staff tried to pull her back. "My daughter. Do anything you can! Save my daughter!"

There was desperation as well as power in her voice. She was a noble. Nobles were descendants or relations of past and present Alphas, Betas, Gammas, and Deltas. Most of them were stupidly rich and influential. They were the Elite of a pack. Most of them were found in the council or just lived a life of luxury.

I could feel the woman's wolf trying to connect with me. She would do anything for her child. If I weren't confident in the vials in my hand, I would have been terrified. Nobles were ruthless. While the Alpha and every pack member in leadership positions like Betas were bound by duty to the pack

and had to be empathetic because of the bond they bore, Nobles weren't so. They could be very selfish.

The woman was desperately pleading, yet I could feel the warning in her eyes. She would wreak havoc on me if anything happened to her beloved daughter.

My eyes landed on a small group by the corner. They were sobbing quietly and looking weary. They had to be the parents of the remaining kids.

'Commons,' my wolf told me. Unlike Omegas, who were the lowest in the hierarchy, Commons were like middle-class werewolves. They made up the diligent working class, and were mostly docile. Overly feral werewolves from the Common class were used as guardians or warriors.

I suddenly began to feel out of place. What was I thinking? Every person standing before me was of a higher hierarchy than me. I was nothing. A wretched Omega.

"How did they know that she was administering the antidote today?" Kaden barked angrily.

The room immediately went silent as the overbearing presence of his wolf swept through each of them.

The clinic staff exchanged looks and swallowed. The mob of people easily stepped back this time around.

"They assumed." The doctor who checked me earlier said, "Someone saw all of you head into the forest. And then rumors of you going into the Alchemy Lab spread like wildfire."

Kaden snorted.

"Get back. I need this place to be clear now." He commanded.

Dozens of feet shuffled out of the way until it was just the staff, the parents of the kids, and us.

The Noblewoman had collapsed on the floor and was weeping quietly.

"Enough of that," Kaden growled.

Her sniffing seized immediately.

Kaden then motioned to a spooked doctor, who jerkily slid open the door to the room where the kids lay.

I took a breath and stepped inside. Nothing about this was new to me. I'd seen my mother do it countless times, and I also helped people out the same way. However, the energy in Golden Crest was different.

"Come on," Princess whispered, leading me inside.

My heart broke at the sight of the kids. They'd become pale and lean, and were still chained to the bed. Some of them were stuck halfway between human and wolf form.

"They're going to be very hungry when they wake," I whispered to no one in particular. "I need food to be ready immediately."

Princess nodded, and then her eyes turned golden as she communicated that information to someone outside.

"They're on it." She whispered as soon as she was done.

I approached the first child and felt her pulse. It was low. She had little strength left. After taking another shaky breath, I opened the vial.

"What is going on here?" A voice barked, startling me.

I was so shaken that the vial slipped out of my hand and fell to the ground.

"Who authorized this?" Lex continued.

"Stupid idiot," Princess muttered under her breath before turning to face him.

"Are you crazy?" she whisper-yelled.

"First, I hear that you opened Rhys mom's lab, and now you are allowing an untrained person to administer antidotes?" he asked, his voice loud and stupid.

One of the kids stirred, and my heart jumped.

"Lex," Kaden warned

Lex spun around and glared at him.

Kaden's eyes changed to golden as he communicated something.

Lex scoffed and communicated back the same way. Princess looked pissed at both of them. The tension in the room was skyrocketing. It reminded me more of how I didn't belong. If I was Pack, I would have been able to decipher part of what that said.

A low growl emanated from the kid that stirred and that snapped their

attention back to us.

"Thank you, Lex." Princess hissed. "The sedatives are beginning to wear off. Get ready to wrestle with them."

I took a step towards the kid who had begun to move, and Lex swiftly blocked me.

"Don't fucking move." He growled, nudging me backwards. "The doctors will be here to give them another dose."

The condescending way in which he regarded me grated my nerves. My wolf was pissed. Lex was a Gamma and could only be in charge when the Alpha, Luna, and Beta were unavailable. Yet he walked around like he owned the place.

"If you don't step away from her now, I'll do something you'll regret." Beta growled.

Once again, his wolf was present in its full form. Waves of its dominance rippled through the air. Princess sucked in a breath at the power. It was just as suffocating as that of an alpha. And the fact that he was pissed enhanced.

Wide-eyed, Lex staggered away from him and towards him.

"You dare use your dominance on me?" He gritted out.

"Get out." Kaden snarled.

Lex let out a soft growl before his legs grudgingly pushed him towards the door. He tried to fight it, but Kaden's were trained on him.

Another growled rumbled from the boy. He began to snarl and struggle with the chains that held him down.

I quickly uncorked another vile and ran to his side. On seeing me, he became more volatile. The clanging of the chains made the others stir.

"Help me," I said to Princess, as I placed a few drops in his mouth.

Shuddering, she approached me with questions in her eyes.

The little boy looked deranged. A few drops weren't going to cut it for him.

"The others," I instructed her. "We need to give it to them before they are fully awake."

She grabbed one of the vials and rushed to a dark-haired girl.

Kaden, who was back to normal, grabbed another and dashed to another child. Two doctors grabbed vials and rushed to the remaining kids.

"How much are we supposed to give them?" One of them asked.

"5 drops." I announced, "Then you watch to see if their breathing has returned to normal. If not, empty the whole thing in their mouth."

The boy before me was calming down a bit. But I could still see the effects in his eyes. So I emptied the vial in his mouth. The effect was immediate. He fell asleep, and his erratic breathing ceased.

A smile spread across my lips. "We can unchain them now. They'll be awake in a minute or two. They'll also be disoriented and famished. Bring their family in with food." I whispered.

The doctor released a sigh of relief and then grinned at me before beckoning the nurses piled outside. His golden eyes told me that he was dishing out instructions. They came in abruptly and unchained the sleeping kids while the doctors checked their vitals.

Princess walked slowly until she was by my side, her eyes focused on the kid to whom she had administered the antidote. Kaden was doing the same thing too.

"We're taking them to private wards now. They are stable." The second doctor whispered just as they began to roll the kids out through another door.

I nodded, understanding the need for privacy for each family.

"You're awesome," Princess said, still dazed, as soon as we were alone.

I chuckled. It didn't feel awesome. This was pretty normal to me. In fact, I was congratulating myself for making the dosage administered to them a bit stronger because they'd been under its effect for a long time.

"I second that." Kaden finally spoke.

I eyed them. For people who were powerful they were behaving really awkwardly for something this small.

We stood staring for a long time before the triplets waltzed in.

"We have a problem." They announced simultaneously.

I raised a brow. Blood drained out of Kaden and Princess's faces.

"The kids?" Princess whispered, her hands flying to her chest.

"They are awake and fine," Layla said.

"Thank goddess," Princess sighed.

"Then what's the problem?" Kaden grunted.

"Everyone knows what just happened. There's a crowd clamoring at both exits of the clinic. Dawn has turned into a superstar. It's a mob." Kayla said.

"How is that a problem? You know what to do!" Kaden barked.

They turned and gave accusing glares at Tayla who shrugged.

"We thought-"

Growls from her sisters cut her short.

"I thought Dawn would want to say something to her adoring fans?" She finished.

I blushed.

"No." Kaden said at the same time as Princess who said, "Definitely!"

Kaden growled at her, and then at the triplets, he said, "Clear the back exit. I don't want to see a single soul."

A slow smile spread across their lips before they dashed off at the speed of light.

At once, it dawned on me. They were Deltas, the Alpha's Enforcers.

I gulped. They didn't look like they could hurt a fly. It made them even more scary.