

13

Dawn

We waited around for about 10 minutes before Kaden instructed us to move. We slipped casually out through wide, winding hallways until we got to the backdoor.

There was no living soul in sight. Even my wolf couldn't feel anyone close by. It amused me. Delta's were very efficient.

We found the triplets lounging outside the door, looking bored.

"What did you say about training with us?" Tayla asked, linking her arms with mine. Kaden grunted and Princess rolled her eyes.

"Leave her alone. Don't put ideas in her head now." Princess warned.

Tayla smirked and exchanged looks with her sisters, who had similar expressions.

"And before we forget." They said simultaneously, then laughed.

We all turned towards them. "Forget what?" Kaden asked impatiently.

"Marcus is around." Layla completed.

Princess stopped short. "When?" She gasped.

"I just got here." A familiar voice said smugly.

We found Marcus standing by the entrance of the Pack house, with folded arms and a deep frown.

Seeing him brought back all the memories of my last day in Creekside. And more recently, I recalled Rhys' hurtful words to me.

The familiar feeling of pain and betrayal was back. And my wolf felt it was to blame. A very tiny growl rumbled in my throat. His cocky presence riled my wolf.

"W-what are you doing here?" Princess squeaked. I've never seen her look so dull and afraid.

Marcus's piercing glance left me and landed on her. They looked like carbon copies of each other. How didn't I notice it all this while?

Marcus' smirk grew, "I should be asking you, Princess."

"B-but," Princess stammered.

He waved her off. "Did you think I'd miss my chance to finally become Alpha? Isn't this what we've always wanted? Plus it's all becoming pure and unadulterated chaos already. Isn't it entertaining?"

I blinked. This man was more animated than the man that brought me here. That Marcus was stoic.

Princess looked like she was struggling with a lot of emotions; including fear.

I narrowed my eyes on her. Something about their father-daughter relationship resembled mine. She glanced at me and it was as if her emotions were immediately tucked away as soon as she remembered that she had an audience.

"You catch on fast," Marcus said to me.

My breath caught in my throat at the directness in his tone. I was speechless, fighting with my pain at what I believed was his betrayal and something that I couldn't understand.

"Leave her out of this," Princess growled.

Marcus paid his daughter no mind. "A few days ago, you were a clueless, naive omega with a death wish. And now you've become the people's champ?"

My eyes widened at what he was implying.

"You." I started, my words coming out rushed. "You did this. You brought me here. Why?"

He gave me a disappointed look and snorted. "I spoke too soon. Maybe you're as dumb as they come."

My face felt heated and my wolf was pissed. A growl snuck out my mouth.

A triumphant gleam flashed in his eyes. "Now, now Omega. Don't tell me you've become delusional enough to think you could be Luna?." He taunted. "Ahh, I see that you've started playing the part."

My growl was louder and more defiant this time. It felt like something else, something bolder had taken over me.

Marcus chuckled.

"Enough," Kaden declared.

However, whatever possessed me seemed to be only getting started. I charged at him with a pointed finger.

"You. You lied. You deceived me. You deceived everyone. I thought I was coming here to make babies or be some sort of slave. But you married me to an Alpha who doesn't want me. And what do you expect me to do?"

Gone was the mirth from Marcus's face. "Shouldn't you fall to my feet and worship me for saving you? You insolent being! What would your life have been like if I hadn't interfered? You'd be hungry and beaten to a stupor or dead. I gave you this." He scolded.

My hand went up and my claws extended out of my fingers as I moved to strike him.

"Enough," Kaden said, holding my hand.

"You ruined my life," I growled.

"You're simply ungrateful." Marcus shrugged and stepped out of the way.

"No. I'm not." I shot back, trying to rip my arm out of Kaden's grip. "You abuse your wealth, your dominance and power. You interfere in the lives of people, not caring about the consequences, then you expect gratitude."

I didn't realize how hurt I had been until the words I just vomited left me. Golden Crest may have been a wonderful place with wonderful people, but it didn't change the fact that I was again shackled in a position I didn't want with someone who didn't care if I died or lived. My life was hanging by a thread. I would die if Rhys and I couldn't stay together for 3 months. With my family, I played the part of a breadwinner and debt-payer. I was tired of the endless cycle.

"As expected you fell into character quickly," Marcus added like he didn't hear anything I said.

I managed to set myself free from Kaden and rushed to Marcus who seemed unfazed. The unfamiliar feeling that was pushing me didn't even care that Marcus' wolf should be higher than mine. It wanted to draw blood.

I was about to hit him when arms wrapped around me. I heard Princess's voice pleading with me but it only aggravated me more.

"Leave Me!" I growled. My wolf was at the surface and it wanted to bash Marcus' smug face. Princess shuddered back in awe.

"Enough!" Kaden commanded, this time with the authority of his position.

The dominance slammed into me at once all the bravado I'd felt vanished. My wolf retreated back to the depths of my mind. I staggered back.

"Take her inside, Princess." Kaden voiced.

I became aware of my surroundings. My gaze swiveled around. The triplets looked amused; more like impressed. Princess avoided my gaze while Marcus and Kaden looked pissed.

Their wolves were battling over something that caused me to tremble. Princess' hand clasped mine and she dragged me out, with the triplets trailing along.

"What the hell was that?" Kaden growled.

"I only welcomed our newest pack member," Marcus growled back.

My gaze remained fixated on him, even as we walked farther into the pack house.

"A mistake," Marcus whispered to himself. "Whatever she is, is no Omega Wolf. I may have made a terrible mistake."

I concluded that he was crazy and also mean with bad intentions. I was going to make sure that I avoided him. The door to my room swung open and Princess pulled me in.

"He's such an asshole." She cursed as soon as the door swung shut. I fell to my bed, feeling my body tremble.

"Woah." The triplets exclaimed and began exploring the space.

I racked my brain to understand where this rebellious streak came from. My wolf had always challenged everyone but it was from within. It had never manifested itself.

I remembered the night I almost turned rogue. Was that it? Was I still manifesting rogue symptoms?

Fear gripped me. That night, the thought of dying felt really good. I loved the freedom that ran through my veins on that night. But at the moment, I didn't want to die. I wanted a fighting chance. I couldn't give up when freedom was so close.

"I think I'm going rogue," I murmured, covering my face with my hands. There was no other explanation for what had happened.

"Or you're just hungry," Layla quipped.

I shook my head. They didn't understand how different I'd become since that night. The only person who may have understood it was Rhys. He was there with me. He saw me go wild. But I wouldn't dare approach him now.

"Don't bother. You're not rogue. I can perceive them from a Mile away," Princess said, her voice returning to normal.

I sat up. "You don't understand," I groaned. "Whatever happened out there is unlike me."

"Again, I suggest that you are famished. It's been a long day," Layla said.

"True," Princess conceded, "Plus the fact that my father has the ability to shatter the rationality of everyone he comes in contact with."

The triplets chuckled. "True. He does that to everyone except us." They echoed.

Princess sighed and flopped beside me. "You're either going to have to learn to fight it or get used to it. I gave up a long time ago. There's no winning with him."

Layla whistled, "And he's going to be around for a long time."

"We're in for a fun time then," Tayla added.

"He's going to have everyone acting out of their minds for the rest of the three months. When I say everyone, I mean everyone he comes in contact with," Kayla shrugged.

I groaned and fell back. It sounded like a horrible thing. Plus my intuition kept reminding me that Marcus didn't have good intentions. The triplets hung silently around for a while before convincing everyone that we were all hungry and dragging us to go and eat.

Unsurprisingly, the pack house was packed with werewolves. Tayla sensed them just as we crossed out of the Alpha's Lair.

"Nope. We're turning back," She said, "A lot of people have suddenly developed an appetite and are waiting to see you."

I groaned. I was very hungry.

"If that's the case, we'll eat at Rhy's Dining." Princess declared and began to steer us in that direction.

My heart dropped to the bottom of my chest.

"No." I screeched. I was very intentional about avoiding Rhys all the way, I couldn't stand his presence not when he was snappish.

The triplets exchanged glances, "So you want to risk the mob?" Layla said. "You don't realize that you're like a celebrity now."

"We could have risked if your wolf was more dominant. All it would take is one angry glance and they'll scurry away." Tayla continued.

"Unfortunately, almost everyone who's waiting thinks you're some sort of exhibition." Kayla finished.

I swallowed, I was willing to risk it with them rather than meet Rhys. Princess though, was already dragging me back to the Alpha's Lair and towards his dining. I prayed severely that he wasn't around.

"What the fuck are you doing here?" He barked, before I stepped into the room.

The sound of his voice sent thrills down my spine and as soon as I caught sight of him my breath was knocked off my chest.

"Your beloved wife is hungry," Princess said simply, still pulling me in.

He avoided my gaze entirely and looked at the triplets who crowded the doorway. They communicated something before the triplets spun around and went away without a word.

I found it odd, however, Princess was already placing me in a seat.

"Great. I just lost my appetite." Rhys snapped and banged the table.

Princess rolled her eyes. "Good now you can leave, so you don't ruin ours. Your dear wife has had quite a day. She needs sustenance."

Rhys muttered something under his breath.

I shifted uncomfortably in my seat. I didn't like how he was oozing so much masculinity that attracted me, while he treated me like trash. My appetite waned with each passing minute.

In a beat, Naomi and a few Omegas slipped in through a nondescript door and placed our meals before us. I felt weird and guilty. I didn't deserve to

be here while the Omegas slaved away.

"The Omegas at Golden Crest are treated differently than where you're coming from," Rhys said grumpily, still avoiding my gaze.

My cheeks flushed and I wondered if he could read my mind.

"What are you going to do about the unnecessary attention that she's getting," Princess asked.

"Not my business." He growled and got to his feet.

"When you get yourself into a mess, you fucking undo it yourself." He said and walked out.

My heart felt as if it was being squeezed in my chest. What would it take to get him to treat me like a human?

The food became like tasteless cardboard in my mouth and I asked myself once again if death wasn't better than my useless life.

I'd barely finished my meal before the triplets rushed in, gushing about something.

"Rhy just made a decree! Nobody is to approach you without your permission or talk to you or even look at you! He threatened to rip anyone who defaults apart."

Somehow I felt even worse. But they were smiling.

"Is this a good thing?" I asked, because it felt like he didn't want me to associate with anyone.

"Yes! That solves the problem of your new fans! We can walk around now! Plus, he was close to beating Lex up for trying to stop you, earlier."