

## Chapter 215

"How does the defence plead?"

Judge Ruth Lycus, the judge presiding over the case asks Carmela's lawyer, Donald Rex, a lawyer that Carmela hired from a neighbouring pack.

"Not guilty," Donald replies, glancing at Carmela who has a smug look on her face.

Judge Ruth slowly looks from Kelvin and Leila to Donald and Carmela before turning to her clerk.

"Enter a plea of not guilty for the accused, we will adjourn until 12 pm, a fortnight from today, at which time this court will reconvene. The accused will also be placed under mandatory house arrest for the period that this case will -"

"What?!" Carmela yells, her eyes going wide and full of surprise, "you can't possibly mean that. I had nothing to do with the death of the witch and I'm not a threat to anyone."

Leila smirks at her and Judge Ruth frowns, pushing her glasses down the bridge of her nose to stare Carmela in the eyes.

"Until that is proven, you are a suspect and have been charged with the crime, the nature of the crime is gruesome and the mood of the pack members is an agitated one, this is also for your safety as it is mandatory," she says in a calm voice, glancing at Donald as if to tell him to get a grip on Carmela.

"Nonsense," Carmela spurts, standing up and slamming the table, her voice curt, "I am not staying under house arrest, I am the fiancée of the



Alpha, there are laws that protect me, how did you even become a judge if you don't know this?"

Donald puts a hand on Carmela and drags her down into her chair just as judge Ruth slams her gavel and scowls at Carmela.

"Defence, you would do well to inform your client that she has just be held in contempt of court and will be charged a fine of fifty thousand and if she dares to adresss me or my court in such a rude and disrespectful manner again, her house arrest will be changed to full detainment. This case is adjourned."

Leila smirks as the judge leaves, the law Carmela is talking about is the same one that got her mother out of house arrest being in laws to the Alpha but the law does not recognise engagements, only legal marriages.

"This is your doing," Carmela snarls at Leila as Leila stands up.

Leila scoffs coldly, walking towards the exit of the courtroom when she turns back and walks up to Carmela.

"For everything you did to my family, I'll pay you back every cent. This is just the beginning," she says coldly, feeling a surge of rage inside her, remebering the horrors she went through after being falsely accused of killing the wiutch.

When she steps outside the court building, she is welcomed by a crowd outside, chanting and slandering her name with cardboards and placards acrrying inscriptions like:

JUSTICE FOR THE PHOENIX LUNA

LEILA IS THE MURDERER

JUSTICE FOR CARMELA



### FREE CARMELA

Their chants of slander towards Leila grows rowdy and some of them walk towards her.

"Get back inside Leila, I'll take care of this," Kelvin says, pushing her behind him but Leila does not move.

"Leila is the murderer!"

"She's a killer!"

"She did it! Yes she did it! She killed the witch!"

Leila stays rooted to the spot with her heart thudding, a crippling feeling coming down on her. This was just the exact same scene that night before Tatum gave her up and threw her to the mob to be beaten, molested and locked up.

She heaves slowly and her hands begin to shake as memories of that night invade her mind. The crowd starts to close in on them, chanting more loudly and violently even as some warriors try to keep them at bay but they are outnumbered.

Suddenly, a single powerful voice rents the air with a command that not one soul could defy.

"Enough!"

Tatum yells, appearing from amongst the crowd.

He steps up in front of Leila just as Carmela steps outside with a smug look on her face.

"You have disobeyed me as your Alpha, each and everyone of you,"



Tatum says to the crowd, his voice cold and threatening, "and there will be consequences, you can count on that."

Murmurs of fear and worry ripples through the crowd, some of them backing away, remembering the order given by the Alpha for Leila's name never to be mentioned in the murder of the witch.

"Why would you say that? They are only here to defend the truth," Carmela says, faking puppy eyes and speaking in a pitiful voice.

Tatum's eyes snap to her with vengeance and he grits his teeth, snarling at her.

"The truth?"

He closes the distance between them and grabs Carmela's arm, yanks his engagement ring from her finger before turning to the crowd.

"As of this day, my engagement to Carmela Easton has officially been called off, there will be no wedding. I cannot have a Luna with a stained name."

