

Chapter 79

"Give me your wrist," Liana says in the room, taking out an amulet from her handbag and slipping it into Leila's wrist.

Her mother had called her to visit and she spoke with a terrible urgency, that Leila was at her house at first light the next morning.

It was rare for her mother to be in such panic and it scared Leila.

"This is for your protection and especially for the baby. Without your wolf, your body is weak and your cells heal slower. This amulet will help with that. It will also cast evil eyes away from the baby now that everyone knows you are pregnant."

Leila stares from her mother to the red beaded bracelet with dark spots, joined together by a red and black leather string.

"I got it from a shaman friend of mine who sees visions and he says you need to be protected. Are you in any form of danger, Leila?" Liana asks in a sombre tone, her old eyes holding much concern.

Leila wonders if she should tell her mom about Carmela's attempt on her life but that will only make her mother worried. It is better to find out the truth first and tell her after she deals with the threat.

Her mother may be the strongest woman she knows but losing her mate still has taken its toll on her, living in fear of losing her daughter is not a burden she wants to add to that.

"Thank you for this mom and I'm fine, there is no danger at all, although there is something I would love to know," Leila replies as a thought comes to her mind.

Carmela's father was the only one who witnessed her dad's death and now the daughter suddenly wants to kill her.

Chapter 79

It's crazy to think since both families were close back then but anything is a possibility and after her dad died, it was Carmela's father who took over as beta just like Carmela wants to take over as Luna.

"What is that?"

"The night dad died, what really happened?"

"Is everything okay Leila?" The concern in Liana's voice peaks. "It's been over ten years, you've never asked, why now?"

Leila places a comforting hand on her mother's hand with a small smile on her lips.

"When my baby comes into this world, I want to be able to clearly tell him the story of my greatest hero."

It breaks her heart to lie to her mom and use her child as an excuse to do so but she does not have a choice, she cannot have her mother be worried.

Liana heaves a sigh.

"Hmm, that day, your father and I were on a secret mission to infiltrate a rival pack. We were supposed to go as a visiting family and we were supposed to take you along but it was Tatum's birthday and you faked an illness to stay back," Liana pauses and smiles at Leila. "You really have loved him for a long time, haven't you?"

Leila blushes and feels goosebumps rent her skin and she looks away shyly.

She remembers that particular day, she faked being ill so she would not go with her parents to not miss attending Tatum's birthday party.

So her mother knew she was faking it? Mothers do know everything.

That was the day she gave Tatum her first kiss, he rejected her birthday gift and asked to kiss her instead.

It was nothing more than a peck but that kiss probably sealed her fate, only that the next day, she visited Carmela while their parents were still away and Carmela woke up with the phoenix mark and everything changed.

"I have, I've always loved him," she replies.

"Trent joined us on the way and said it was the Alpha's orders for him to join us. He was quite pissed that we left you back at home which was not supposed to be but your father shut him down quickly, they got into a little scuffle and that is when four rogues attacked. I was hurt and Trent was dragged into the woods, your father went after him after killing two of the rogues but Trent carried his dead body out. Your father died protecting him."

Liana's sadness and heartbreak shines through her words and tears run down the corner of her eyes and Leila sweeps her into a soothing hug, letting her mother sob gently in her arms.

"I miss him..." Liana whispers.

"Me too..." Leila stares wryly into the space behind.

Her father was the strongest warrior in the pack, it hardly makes sense that just two rogues could have easily killed him when he was with another beta.

Her heart thuds fervently at a certain possibility.

What if Carmela's attitude towards her has more to it?

She needs to look into her father's death properly as well as the incident two years ago but the moment Carmela became the phoenix Luna, any

Chapter 79

attacks concerning her family were moved to the class A archives, they became top secret and only one person has access to those files.

Tatum.



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