

## Chapter 127

Zeke laid next to me, propped up on his elbow, running his hands through my hair. I was laying down, happy to be able to sleep in for once. Not that I had actually slept in. Reagan and Rowan both managed to come in around three in the morning refusing to sleep anywhere but in our bed. Only to fuck off in the morning when Hector came by with the kids to go swimming at around six. Now, I was just laying in bed with Zeke who was enjoying having me in bed this late as much as I liked being in it.

"I still can't believe you just chopped it all off."

I hummed, not opening my eyes and just feeling his fingers against my scalp. "It was time. Especially with my mom's hair so short. It feels nice. Plus, you pull off long hair much better than I ever have."

He chuckled. "Why thank you. You did look handsome but you look handsome like this as well. I just will miss being able to wrap threads in your hair."

I smiled. "Yeah, I will miss that too. Reagan cried because she couldn't put bows in my hair."

"You didn't tell me that!"

"I didn't want you to know she cried about it. You would have sat down and let her do a complete make-over on you. I'm not about to clean that again until she learns how to at least get the lipstick on your lips."

Zeke sighed and nuzzled my neck. "Maybe."

'Vale, you need to come down.' Jax's mind link made me

sit up and open my eyes.

I pulled Zeke into a deep passionate kiss, nipping his lip but then disengaged and got up.

"Vale!"

"Jax is asking me to come down. It sounds urgent."

Zeke sat there for a second before my words finally clicked in his brain. He swung his feet over and headed past me to go into the bathroom. As he walked back, I smirked and slapped his ass hard and he yelped.

"Hey! That hurt, Vale! I know Auri has been training you, but keep the strength down please."

My eyebrows shot up and I looked at my hand. "Sorry...I didn't..."

He leaned back so I could see him in the doorway. "It's okay. Just be mindful of your own strength."

Flexing my hand, I hummed before grabbing a shirt and pants out of the drawers. I pulled them on and headed down the stairs. Jax, AJ, and Lucy, were all standing in the living room with their arms crossed over their chests. Outside I could see Simon, Felix, Bryan and Hector with the kids but there were also listening to something on their phones. As I headed down the stairs, Zeke was rushing behind me, pulling on his shirt, and his hair still wild instead of it in its usual braid.

This was eerily familiar but they were all staring at the TV we had mounted on the wall. I watched it out of the corner of my eye as I got to grab two mugs of coffee.

"We are here just outside New York City where the two

factions of vampires has finally heated up to violence. Neither side will admit to being the first to throw the stone but fighting broke out early this morning. It stopped a few moments ago thanks to Morgan Russo, who is known as the head of the mafia faction in Italy as well as adoptive father to the Luna Queen Auri Meadows. He's managed to stop both sides for the moment." The reporter was speaking into a microphone outside a group of people gathered in a large open space.

I handed Zeke his mug of coffee and walked over to AJ, who patted my back. "The next step is for his to announce his bid, right?"

Nodding, I took a sip of coffee. "Then we will see how everyone reacts. We give it a couple days and then I will put out my endorsement. Hopefully, King Uriel will do so as well."

"Do you really think this is going to work?" Lucy asked, her eyes not looking away from the screen.

I took a deep breath. "In what way? Because it's two fold. Maybe even twelve but I'm thinking of two right now. One is if Oran is going to flip his lid immediately. Whatever his plans are, if they do actually include being the King, then he's going to be up in arms almost immediately. One the flip side is whether or not the vampires will accept Morgan as their candidate."

"I just..." Her voice was small. "I found out I'm pregnant."

My eyes widened and all of us turned to her, shock on our faces. She smiled and finally tore her eyes away to look at us. All of us engulfed her and hugged her tightly.

"Congratulations, Lucy!" Zeke was the first to get it out.

"I'm so happy for you! We get to be Uncles again!" AJ was laughing.

"Dude, we just gained nine siblings. More of an uncle do you want to feel like? We are pretty much uncles to all of them as well." Jax was shaking his head.

Lucy was just laughing but I could see the tears falling. Reaching down, I swiped them away. "We will be here for you, Lucy. You know that. We couldn't be happier for you and Felix."

She nodded and looked down, her hands pressing on her stomach. "The doctor said it's going to be a little girl. I just ..." Her eyes looked into mine. "You're taking Felix with you if there is going to be a battle, aren't you?"

The puzzle piece slipped into place and I let out a slow breath. "I will. I need him and his leadership skills."

"But Vale...!" She started to cry out but AJ put his hand on her shoulder. "Do you think Felix would want to hear you right now? He would so disappointed."

Lucy started to sob and I hugged her, holding her tight against me. She cried into my chest as I rubbed her back. I could see Felix swing his head over and start to head back to the house but his eyes caught mine and I shook my head. He looked like he was struggling but he sat back down. His eyes didn't leave our little group.

"I want to avoid fighting as much as possible, Lucy. You know that. If it does come down to it though, I will need Felix's expertise. I would have needed you too but I won't put you or your pup into that kind of danger. Felix is one of our best warriors. He's not going to go down easily. Now, he's fighting for so much more. It's not going to be easy

for either of you but it's not going to be easy for any of our warriors and their families they are leaving behind."

Pulling her chin up to look at me, I let my Alpha King power slip forward. "I will promise you though, I will do everything in my power to make sure every single one of our warriors come home. Do you understand?"

She nodded and gave me a small smile. "Thank you, Vale."

I gave her a quick nod and kissed her head. "I'm so happy for you. Bryan must be over the moon."

Laughing, she wiped her cheeks. "I think he was happier that it was girl than when I originally told him." I cocked my head to the side and she burst out laughing. "Because he didn't want our pup to be the king."

Everyone started to laugh and I shook my head. "Goddess. Let's not keep it in the family anymore, shall we?"

"Agreed." She took a deep breath. "I'm okay. I'll do what I can from here and help out getting ready for anything we run into."

"Just not too much. I don't want you to push yourself too much. You need to make sure you rest when you need to now. We won't have you overworking yourself like you do normally."

Lucy nodded at me sheepishly. "You guys took it better than I thought you would."

"What did you think we would say? That this was inconvenient timing? I mean sure, but pups happen when pups happen. There isn't really much we can do except work around it." Jax smiled at her.

AJ snorted. "If anything, life is the problem. It keeps being complicated and getting in the way of us wanting to be live it the way we want."

Zeke rolled his eyes. "That's one way to look at it." He took her hands in his. "If you need them, the extra pool noodles are in the garage that Bryan didn't have a chance to install."

She groaned and we all laughed at her expense. Felix smiled and went back to looking at the kids as they splashed around. My heart felt heavy though as we hung around watching the TV. Zeke placed his hand on my back, rubbing up and down my spine.

He could feel my hesitation and my pain. For the first time, I felt like I really needed to sit down and talk with my mom. I wondered how she felt when she went into battle with Micah. Was she torn as well? She did say she had a habit of going off and doing it all on her own because it would protect those she loved but she couldn't when it came to that one battle.

'Vale?'

I looked at Zeke.

'You okay?'

Smiling, I nodded. 'I am. It's just a lot of weight. Especially when it comes to family being involved.'

'It is. It puts a lot more weight into the decision you make.'

Suddenly, the screen flipped to the reporter from the middle of the footage they were showing of the earlier fights.

"We have breaking news! Morgan Russo has just stepped forward and made a speech to both sides of the vampire factions. In his speech, he has announced that the Vampire King Julius is against finding peace within the supernatural community. That while not everyone may agree with the treaty, that there is always a way to work out peace and options. He is stepping up to dethrone Vampire King Julius and replace him as king! This is huge! We are waiting to hear if we can get an interview with Mr. Russo. Keep it here on SPLXN for up to date information."

Smiling, I nodded. "So it begins."

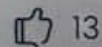


MishanAngel Author

*"I'm going to try and get out as many chapters as I can tonight. I'm not sure if I'm going to be able to finish finish. I'm going to try. I'm on a roll. So be prepared. There are a few incoming!"*

*As ALWAYS. Thank you guys so much. <3*

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