

Chapter 21

Rafe continued to watch from the shadows. He was getting tired and was cursing himself for bringing Aislinn here. That was a miscalculation and he would see that she paid for what she had done. But at the moment it was all he could do, even with using the power from the stone circle, to keep the lycans' minds from noticing the enemy hidden among them. He was trying to come up with a way out of this. He needed more numbers and the only way to do that would be to take on a pack. He didn't like direct confrontation. Staring at Jenna at Cullen's feet call out his name he realized he needed the bitch. As Cullen began to argue with Brennus Rafe extended his influence over the lycan's minds to hide Jenna from them and to bring Jenna to himself.

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"You tell me Brennus. Your daughter seems to be following in her mother's footsteps," Cullen growled back.

"She's done nothing save try to please you," Brennus replied coming toe to toe with Cullen.

"She has a knife," someone yelled. Cullen turned to see what was going on but Jenna seemed to vanish.

Jenna braced herself for the attack that never came. "Come here girl," Rafe said to her in annoyance. "I can't have you killing him now. This plan will have to be changed. Complications have arisen. But if we want your father to believe that Arnauk was the cause of the bad ending here then you have to leave him to be the target of Brennus' anger. That will make it easier for me to convince him that you should be mine. And that we need to go to war."

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Jenna smiled at him dully. He hated the simpering look they got when he had to use his influence on them. He couldn't wait until he was done with this one.

Cullen had his hands full explaining away the events of the evening. But the strongest members of his pack were with him and there were at least a dozen people who claimed to have dreamt that Jenna was going to knife Cullen with a stiletto that she had hidden on her person. No one said exactly where but the implication had most everyone chuckling.

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By the time everything was sorted out and calmed down down was on the manor. Cullen took one look at the rising sun, felt his body begging for sleep, and looked around at the tired faces of his men. The best he could do was pray that Aislinn was safe.

It took a great deal of convincing and then finally an order to get a set of keys handed over so that he could drive back into town without sleep. He just had a bad feeling and knew that he wouldn't rest until Aislinn was safe inside the den. Keith insisted on going with him but fell asleep halfway there. Cullen let his friend rest. It had been a long night for everyone.

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