

CH 15

Raygan POV

She was in her father's office looking at the list of lost lives and sighed heavily, they'd lost 63 wolves themselves today. It seems the Cold Moon had learned a better way to train their warriors over the years. Their skills had improved since the last war.

Her stepmother was already out there within the pack, consoling grieving pack members, doing the Luna's job. She was good at it, and the pack liked her. Raygan had no bad opinions of the woman. She was a gifted second chance mate to her father, and they loved each other.

She'd been a Deltas third daughter, a warrior for her pack before coming here. She would often go out and fight in the smaller battles if she felt like it. Didn't laze about either, trained the juniors in hand to hand and ground fighting. Liked still being out there training. She'd come from another pack that had recently been allied to them and when it had been attacked, they'd gone to their aid.

It had seen more than half of its 300 pack members die in that battle. Her father had brought them into their pack and absorbed them, grew their pack by 156 in a day. They'd scented each other the following full moon and that had been that. Raygan recalled staring at her father when he'd smiled and told her about his new mate.

He'd been alone for 27 years, had been blessed with another Mate. She'd not really reacted at all, just nodded, turned and walked away from the man, he'd called out to her, and she'd yelled back "Congratulations." Then hit the gym to beat the hell out of a punching bag.

Just one more wolf given a second chance mate, when she'd yet to be given a single first Goddess Gifted. She really did hate it when those around her got a second or third chance mate and she was left out once more. Had wondered that day for maybe the trillionth time what she had done for the Goddess to dismiss her, to forget about her.

Had given up completely on any mate, the day her father had announced he and his new Luna were having a pup. Knew right then and there that his second child would likely be the one to get the pack, hated that brat when he'd been born, for many years.

She and Zac had gotten along while he'd been growing up, till he turned 13, and then it wasn't so good, only got along to a degree because he'd turned into a smug little bastard. They all knew she was Mate-less and he'd liked to mention it in passing or make some hushed joke about it, kept it quiet but knew her hearing would pick it up, there was nothing anyone could do about it. Zac, over the past few years, had started smirking at her and talking like he was going to get the pack before she did.

She sighed heavily to herself, now it seemed he was going to get the pack; just what he wanted.

"We need to talk about Zac. Why didn't you tell me he'd found his Mate?"

"It's new, and he and Dee are young. They both said that they would wait for you to come home. Are happy just being a newly gifted pair, enjoying each other. I also told you that he would not take over for a while, that I would have to train him up Raygan. He's happy enough to do that as well."

"He's never even gone off to the kingdom and served father, perhaps he should, a year or two. It might toughen him up a bit, get rid of that smug attitude he has."

"I did mention it, Raygan. He declined, seeing as he's got a mate, and doesn't want to be away from her for that long."

"Of course not." She muttered "who would? Only us Mate-less or unmated go off to do battle for the kingdom."

"That is not true, Raygan."

"It would be good for him...when are you planning on announcing it to the pack?" she asked.

"It's not been decided, he's still attending university, so likely not until after his last year is finished, though..."

"Though?" she prompted him, when he trailed off.

"He doesn't want to wait that long. It is six months away." Her father looked right at her.

"Right." She nodded "I think it should wait until this whole mess has been sorted out with the Cold Moon."

"Agreed." He nodded, "I will make no announcement until then."

"How old is she?"

"22 from what I heard. She's really nice, polite and loves him. I can see their bond. They'll Mark and Mate likely on the full moon now that your home."

Raygan nodded, there was nothing much she could do about it. "Are they Goddess Gifted?"

"It does appear so." Her father smiled "Can't bloody keep their hands off of each other." He chuckled. "I recall those first few weeks."

"Good for you father." She muttered and got up from her chair.

"Raygan, don't be like that. You have a Mate out there somewhere, I'm certain of it."

Her eyes moved to him as pain touched her. "No, I don't and you know it," she stated flatly and walked off, stopped at the door to the office "I'll deal with the Cold Moon. You don't need to relive that, and Zac is not at all experienced enough to even talk to that Alpha. I hear the Heir has returned."

"Interesting timing."

"I think it was before now, just not in the pack today is all. Pity I could have taken a higher leverage. We do need to know about the girl though. I did not know Steffen had a daughter."

"No one here did, kept that well-hidden."

She nodded "Likely for the very reason he accused us, and attacked us. I'll sort it out, you deal with the pack and get the rest of the warriors into hard training, just in case I need to take war to that shitty little pack."

She saw him nod but say nothing as she walked away. It was a shitty little pack, as far as she was

concerned, and had barely 500 members in it, but it was growing, as was hers. The Wintering Moon was not what it used to be, it was a thousand strong, but still, once upon a time, it had been 1500, they were still rebuilding their numbers even all these years later.

It was the very reason that no one wanted war with any other pack being decimated; it could see you having to abandon one's pack and settle into another, which was not nice for any pack. Losing one's home, feeling out of place and having to try and learn new rules and regulations for a new pack when grieving.

Raygan headed upstairs to find Zac and Dee going at it in the hallway up against the wall. "Get in your room." She snarled at them "No one needs to see that."

Saw Zac look right at her and chuckle, didn't even stop "You're just jealous." He yelled as she banged into her room.

He was likely right, but that little bastard didn't need to go f*****g right near her suite where she could see it, hear it. Put his new Mate Bond right in her face and she knew deep down that was what he was doing. Showing off, that he'd got his Goddess Gifted and she was still Mate-less. He was out there right that minute rubbing it in her face and she knew it, she was the only one to come down here, there was no need for Zac to ever be down in her wing.

If they were still out there when she got up in the morning, she was going to punch that little bastard into next week. Uncaring of her father's anger about it. Perhaps it was time she put that boy through the ringer, take him down to training and beat him a little for his stupidity, rubbing his Mate Bond in her face.

Might just request to train him up, put him through his paces and see how he handles it, might see if she could get her father to put some stipulations on his ascension; till he could best her in a fight. Hmm, thought about that. 'No' her father wouldn't go for that Zac was not pure-blooded, he'd never best her.

Always lost or tapped out, but there had to be something she could do. To hinder that boy from getting her pack. What was rightfully hers but by some stupid technicality, was now going to be passed over.

She had stood back and patiently waited for her time to come, only to have it pulled out from under her. Raygan flopped down on her bed and stared out the window, snarled into the room "What the hell did I ever do to you, Selena." She knew there was no getting any sleep right this minute, but it was late, and she'd had a very long day.

Though her day had started out really nice, it had gone to crap, and then gotten bloody, and now it seemed everything she'd once thought of as hers, was just being slowly pulled away from her.

She wondered what she was going to do, once declared a War General and not the Heir to the pack. Rolled over and stared up at the darkened ceiling, Avalon was already asleep inside her mind. Was back to being detached from their life. She didn't seem to care at all about who got the pack.

Her wolf knew the pack's rules, and likely resigned herself to never being the Alpha Wolf in charge of the pack long ago. She knew Avalon would never take a Chosen Mate, didn't even look at wolves at all, never had. Sighed now into the darkness of the room, no Mate, and no chosen would be accepted.

Did she really want to be a War General to her little brother? Be told what to do by that boy. The answer was 'no' and she knew it. She wasn't likely to take orders from him either. Ran her hands over her face. There

was not much she could do about it right this minute. She needed time to think about it.

Also, she had other pressing matters to attend to. At least her father had agreed to wait on his ascension until after all this crap was sorted out. That would give her time to figure out what to do. Did she want to investigate him and that girl? She had no idea if they were Goddess Gifted or not. Only they would know that in all truth. It wasn't like he'd found her the moment she'd left either.

She'd been gone for six months, and the story was plausible, a chance meeting at the university where her brother attended. Humans didn't do things on full moons like they did, so an assignment due on a full moon could well have happened. She could check that herself just ask the girl to show her she guessed. Though then those two would see that she was looking into them. Didn't want that.

If she was going to investigate them, she would do it on the quiet side, didn't want anyone knowing she was trying to disprove their Mate Bond. It would be seen as she was trying to sabotage her brother's claim to the title of the next Alpha, would be seen as her being purely jealous of him.

Be seen as she was being petty and spiteful, doing everything to retain her title when the pack laws stated clearly that only one who found their Goddess Gifted could take the seat of the Alpha. That she was hindering the entire pack and not just her brother. It would be seen as disrespectful and if they were Goddess Gifted, it would likely see her be tossed out on her ass by him, once he took over as well.



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