

CH 16

Karsyn POV

He'd been investigating now for two days solid, there were no discernible tracks out at where the car had been left and abandoned. No longer did any scents linger around the area. He and his unit had hunted on through the woods in search of any kind of tracks or scuffle marks in the woods.

It was a long shot, seeing as so much time had passed, nearly a month now, because his father had not bothered to call him back for assistance, but they had to try to find something.

They all knew that Demi did have a wolf, it was small like she was, a light brown and grey-brindled wolf with light grey feet, not large by any means. It was only the size of a regular wolf in the human world. Likely to be easily overpowered even in wolf form.

They found nothing in the woods, tracked their way all the way to the Wintering Moon Packs border or close enough to it. Stayed far enough back not to be noticeable or have the border patrol alert anyone to their presence. Though he stopped and got a good look at the patrolling units.

They were running dual patrols, it seemed, everyone was overlapping each other and they were all going in opposite directions, where one walked left, the other walked right. There was no getting past it at this point.

Karsyn was betting on this being Raygan's tactics. They used these defensive tactics in the wolfen kingdom for patrolling groups. It ran less risk of anyone getting through undetected. Crush trotted on back to the edge of the forest where they'd left their clothes and shifted. Redressed and got into his car to head off to the university itself.

He'd lined up a few meetings with her lecturers and tutorial teachers, to see just what she was like in class? Had they noticed anything at all that was odd or out of character for her? Who did she hang out with if they knew? Who does she sit with in class? Just the standard investigative questions.

He already knew that she'd not been snatched from the university itself, so it was unlikely that they had any real information, but she could have been travelling with a friend that day. Or dropping someone off at home before being snatched and if so, they might have some idea of what time it had happened.

His father had not been able to tell him any of that information. Only that she had not come home from classes, it had been dinner time and they'd realised she wasn't there for dinner. He had tried to mind-link to her and she'd not been inside the pack, had tried to call her and her phone had been switched off. So, sent out a couple of warriors to drive to the university to look for her. Only to have them report back that her car was on the side of the road and she was nowhere to be seen.

His questioning at the university hadn't gotten him anything either. Only one of the girls in the class seemed to know anything about her. She was not overly happy to talk about Demi either. It appeared Demi was as stuck up and snobby here in the human world as she was inside their pack.

Though hearing she'd had a boyfriend was new to him, to all of his unit. Had gotten a description of that boy. About mid-twenties with brown hair and brown eyes, he was tall and a little on the imposing side, but that was it. She'd stayed away from Demi, as had most of the students. She wasn't, it seemed well liked.

They stood and looked about, there were many wolves here on campus, he could smell at least 5 different pack scents, and by the description given. It was likely that Demi had found herself a wolf from another pack to hang out with. He sighed; she could well have learned to trust him over months, only to have him snatch her.

She had been told not to disclose that she was an Alpha's stepchild, had been told to state she was just an omega in an effort to protect her from being snatched. It could well be likely that she had disclosed herself, her actual identity after getting to know her so-called boyfriend.

He could be from any of the other packs roaming here, his eyes were on the move, as were his units, for a tall dark-haired, dark-eyed wolf. Found himself seeing a lot of them. Did not disclose himself or his unit to anyone. Though it was obvious to all of them he was an Alpha, and they were his unit, the sheer size of him and them would say it all. That they were all standing together would also be noted.

Not to mention he saw many of them smell him, his eyes lingered on those that did, most backed away. Two of the pack scents he recognised were allied to him and they nodded to him and his unit. He nodded back to them. The other two packs he had no idea about.

Snagged one of his allied, who was delta blooded, a young woman she smiled up at him. "Hi Kar,"

"Hi, Wendy. Could you answer me a simple question?"

"Sure." She smiled up at him but was a pretty blonde with curly hair and big golden-brown eyes. He'd met her over the past few months at allied meetings and seen her at two mating balls.

"Who are the two packs that I can't recognise?"

"Oh, here in Nebraska there is your pack, The Cold Moon and The Black Sickle, which I'm from. There's two from up north in South Dakota, The Rising Blue Lotus and The Wintering Moon, and one from just the other side of the Iowa border, The Glimmer Moon Pack. We all pretty much get along; I've not seen anyone from any of the packs fight."

"That's good. Not even from cold or Wintering?"

"No actually, most of you just stay away from each other. I hear there's a truce between your warring packs?"

"There was until a few days ago."

"Ahh, that would be why I haven't seen any of your pack here for a few days."

"Yes." He nodded "Father recalled them all, for safety. Can you point out a Wintering member to me." Wanted to know what they smelled like, could come in handy to him.

Wendy looked about her for several minutes and then sighed "I don't see any Kar, perhaps they have also recalled their own."

"Alright, thanks. Sorry to hold you up."

"Not a problem." She smiled and headed off once more.

He knew the Black Sickle, and the Glimmering Moon, but had nothing to do with the Rising Blue Lotus.

They were unknown to him. Though he'd heard Alpha Nicholas was a pure-blooded Alpha with a fierce reputation for defending his pack. Killed his own kin to take over. Also heard he was big on public displays, for the punishing of his pack members. Could be completely ruthless at times. Was massive at that and if attacked, retaliated in kind, in short order.

Might have to see if he could align himself with that Alpha, didn't know him, but might need his help if it came to all-out war. Could use a man like that to help him defend against Alpha Raygan. He sighed, there was not going to be any information that was of use to him here at the university.

They headed to the security office and asked to see the carpark footage of the day his sister went missing. He just wanted to know if she'd been with anyone at all that day. There was a running investigation going on her, but there was no actual footage of her coming or going that was of any use. All grainy footage at the best of times. Only knew it was her in the end due to it being her car that was recognisable. And she'd appeared to be alone inside it. Again, nothing.

Whoever took Demi had known what they were doing, kept it off campus and out of sight of all of the cameras and away from people who might see it happen. Where her car had been found had been a road off the main roadway that led up into the forested area between where the two packs were.

Though it was very odd that she had driven that particular route to get home that day, driven home through South Dakota itself instead of Nebraska, it would have taken her an extra 20 minutes to get home using that route. If she used the Nebraska route, she would have likely gotten that flat inside their own pack.

His pack had cameras out on their driveway, and he wondered if so did his enemy. Karsyn cruised on by, nice and slow past the Wintering Moon to check for cameras; saw none along the road in. Couldn't actually see the gate from here either. He wondered just how far up that winding road you had to go to see it. Pulled up right next to the driveway and left the boys in the car to go and see for himself.

Not that far at all, 200 metres up the road and round a bend and there it was in the distance, he took his phone out and held it up, zoomed in and saw two of the gate guards looking right at him. But it had a good clear picture of the gate symbol.

There was no need to get up close to take that shot. He returned to his car before either of the Alpha's could be called and alerted to someone snooping around. His unit looked at him questioningly as he drove them back to the pack.

"Anyone could take that picture of the pack gate symbol with a zoom lens," he sighed.

"So, if not the Wintering Moon? Then who do you think is trying to incite war between our two packs?" Rick asked for maybe the dozenth time in the past two days.

"I still don't know," Karsyn shook his head.

"Why is the real question?" Harvey asked. "It doesn't make sense, especially since you're back Kar."

"But I wasn't back...Perhaps that's the reason I was off, you were all off with me on the other side of the world. Father stated Demi went missing three weeks ago."

"On the last full moon," Rick commented. "Could she have simply found her Mate?"

"I doubt it, not with those photos that were sent to father," Karsyn sighed "Who would do that to their Mate?"

"A savage brute who didn't like that she was omega ranked," Harvey commented.

"We've seen that before in the kingdom. Saved some like that ourselves. Seen the Kings Eyes, in fact, go in and bring them out." Mario spoke up.

That they all had, he now realised "I hope that is not what this is. We might never get her back. Might never know who took her either, they might just be some sick bastard that wants to inflict pain on her family as well as her." There were a few horrid wolves like that in the kingdom itself. They were the ones warring with the King himself.

There were more than just a few, so who's to say there weren't some out here in the human world as well. Likely there were many. "If that is the case, they know we're enemies to the Wintering Moon. Which could only mean that they have to know one of our two packs."

It was no wonder that his father hadn't gotten anywhere at all in his investigation into finding Demi. There was nothing out there to really find. Whoever took her knew exactly what to do, when and where to do it as well. Could well be an enemy to both them and the Wintering Moon.

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