Ch 61

Karsyn POV

He was once again in the pack hospital. It was almost 5pm and time for him to leave to go and have dinner. He'd wanted to leave 10 minutes ago, but had been called to the hospital by their pack doctor, Ira. Just as he was heading for his car, he was going to be late, and he knew it.

It wasn't just him and his unit either. His grandmother Mika was here, Renee and his father's entire unit were all here too. He'd not asked them all to come, had been linked by Ira himself, he guessed.

All of them were not in the Alpha's medical suite either, but in the hospital's small conference room. Whatever this was, it was not going to be good. He could see the current Gamma was standing next to Renee, she was worried, and that man had a hand on her already.

Likely she understood why they were all here like this. Might well have made use of this room herself to help pack members through the loss of their mates. Up there on the white board at the head of the table was a compound formula and the words Bath Salts underneath it. Then a list of other names likely the most common to be sold under he guessed Monkey Dust, White Night, Luna Wave, Cloud 9, White Rush.

Ira stood and sighed, "From what we can tell, Alpha Steffen has been using this." he waved his hand at the white board, "or poisoned with this particular drug, though we did not find any injection marks or signs of nasal passage burn to show he had snorted it." he shook his head, "it looks as though he has ingested it. This drug is known as bath salts; it is a synthetic cathinone-type drug. It looks like table salt. It's used mostly for recreational uses."

"If it was in his salt then I'd be affected by it as well," Renee stated, "we use the same shaker."

Ira nodded, "And you're not affected, which means it's in something else, or he is taking it of his own accord. It's addictive in nature. Could be taking it and hiding it all from you."

"I don't think he would do that," Renee shook her head, "it's not like him, he's never done any kind of drugs as long as I've known him."

Ira nodded, "I've not known him to do any illicit drugs either. This, however, is a mind-altering drug MDVP, which is related to MDMA. When ingested orally, it has a rapid absorption rate, and lasts 3 to 4 hours, up to 8 hours depending on the amount ingested. In small doses, or when first taking this, he would have been okay. I think his wolf would have burned it from his system or lessened the effects. So, he would have appeared talkative, with higher concentrations and a higher s*x drive. But with prolonged use and the build-up in his system or the addiction taking over, he'd have started taking more of it. He would have become increasingly agitated, easily irritated, and there would have been moments of confusion or even panic. Though from what I have heard of him of late and with the side effects of high doses, or more frequent use, comes with paranoia and extreme distrust. Psychosis causing hallucinations and or delusions. Violent behavior. Does any of this sound familiar to you?"

Karsyn and practically the entire room huffed in annoyance now. It was exactly what he was like. "No one else in the pack is affected by this." Karsyn frowned "just father."

"It seems that way, so we need to search everything that he eats or drinks on his own that no one else does. Likely something he has all the time now, but never used to," Ira nodded. "it's lucky you had him brought here Karsyn. That drug could have killed him. If he were a human, it likely would have. It is toxic in high doses, you sedating him could well have saved his life."

"Can he survive coming off it?" Renee asked the question not even Kar wanted to voice after hearing that.

"There, unfortunately, is no cure at this time. But all research points to us hydrating him, bringing his electrolytes, which are severely abnormal, back into line, and he is currently suffering from hyponatremia, which in itself causes headaches, confusion, irritability and, in some cases, behavioral changes as well."

"What is hyponatremia?" Renee asked.

"Extremely low levels of sodium."

"Like salt? but bath salts?" Renee frowned up at him.

"Not at all the same thing. It is simply named that because that is what the drug looks like. Is all."

"So, what now?" Karsyn asked.

"We will keep him sedated for now, to stop the violent behavior, and help get that drug out of his system, we'll uncuff him so his wolf can help flush it out of his system or burn it to nothing, and we'll hydrate him, pump him full of electrolytes, bring up his sodium levels till everything normalizes. Then wake him up a few hours later and see what happens. I can't guarantee it'll work. I don't know how long he's been taking it. "

"We'll search everything," Rickford sighed, "find out what it is in."

"It's in the tea he drinks," Karsyn sighed. "I've never seen him drink tea before this morning. How long has he been doing that?"

Everyone was looking at him now and he knew why, because his own father had told him Demi had given it to him. That man's entire unit now knew she was not only fine but trying to start a war with them, from the Wintering Moon Pack.

"Demi gave that to him as a gift. She bought it from the university just before she went missing," Renee frowned at him, "It's herbal tea, is all. I didn't much like it, a bit on the bitter side. But Steffen liked it," she said, "I don't think it is that. I have had that."

"Best to check it. I'm not saying she did it to harm him if it's in the tea. Could have bought it not knowing what was in it." Karsyn told her, trying to placate her. He didn't want her to think of her daughter that way. But it was now looking like that was going to be it.

"He's been drinking a lot of it of late. These past few weeks, every few hours even," Rickford sighed heavily now, "I never thought anything of it, it's just tea."

"Rickford, will you go and get the tea? Let the doc test it please." Karsyn asked him.

"Yes, of course." The man was gone from the room.

He looked at Renee a little apologetically, didn't know what to say to her about her own daughter right this

minute. If Demi had intentionally poisoned her own stepfather, her mother was going to be devastated. Not that she wasn't already going to be with the choices her own daughter had made, and the war she had likely set off into motion.

He looked at his watch and saw it was now a quarter past 5. Texted Raygan, 'Hi Gorgeous, sorry we are all going to be a bit late. Like 20 to 25 min. Haven't left yet, just found out what's wrong with my father. I'll explain when we get there. Sorry.'

Only took a minute for him to get a reply, 'Alright, dinner won't start till 7 anyway, Gina wanted everyone to mingle for an hour, so she, father and his unit could get to know your unit and all. Is he alright?'

'Don't know yet. We're about to leave.'

He stood up and his whole unit stood with him, "I'm sorry Renee, I have to go and have a family dinner with Raygan and her family. Introduce myself formally and my unit as well."

"I understand," she nodded, "not much you can do here, Kar. Go spend time with your Mate."

"Thank you. Rickford and the unit will take care of you."

She just nodded, "You look nice."

She smiled up at him, indicated his attire which he wore, deep indigo pants and a double vest, the under layer was a white and blue paisley and the outer layer was the same indigo colour as his pants and he was wearing a long-sleeved white shirt and a deep indigo tie, that pulled it all together. His jacket was in his car, but he wasn't wearing it. Was wearing his actual pack colours.

His whole unit were all dressed up as well, nice suits on, none of them were wearing jackets either. It was warm tonight, all of them he noticed were wearing the varying shades of blue or grey. All done up just as he was, he'd been curious about that, and gotten a, "We haven't been there before, might find a pretty girl."

His grandmother, Luna Mika, was wearing an elegant soft blue high-collared, A-line ruched chiffon evening dress. She looked very elegant tonight, and he'd told her as much. Rarely saw her with her hair down and it was today, it fell in a long cascade down her back.

He helped her up into his car, and they headed off to the Wintering Moon. "Don't worry about your father, Kar. Once he's all cleared of that drug he'll come around," She smiled at him, "at least now we understand why he's been behaving out of sorts."

"I supposed so." he nodded.

"You suppose so? What's wrong, Kar?"

"It had to stem from something in his subconscious, did it not?"

"Mm, he'll understand, and I'm certain once he's well. He would want you to be with your Goddess Gifted. If you'd found her under better circumstances, things would have worked out as they were supposed to."

"I can only have hoped so," he nodded.

"What's wrong, Kar? You should be happy. Going to see Raygan."

"I am," he smiled at her, "don't much like her being in her pack and I in mine."

"Mm, that will be a challenge for you. She is not going to want to come to Cold Moon."

"I don't think so either," he murmured; it did bother him.

"If you love each other, there will be a compromise to be made, something that will make the two of you happy."

"It has to wait till the Demi thing is sorted out. Then I guess Raygan and I will sit and discuss it."

"Discuss it?...just give her what she wants, Kar. It's not that much to ask, you know. Our family has a long line of bringing Male Alpha's into the pack. Perhaps it's time to give one to another to thank the Goddess for all she gave to Cold Moon."

He looked at her briefly, "You have a weird way of looking at things."

She just chuckled at him, "I suppose I do. But you want to hear something even more interesting than that? "

"Sure."

"I hear Raygan was a right barrel of laughs growing up, very funny once. Her mother had a lot of tales to tell about Raygan as a young girl. She was soured by years of loneliness, I suppose. Became that cold heartless War General in order to not have to feel the pain of not finding a mate, having to see others all loved up and mating off around her. She could well become a little more free-spirited now that she's happy and has you. She is happy about that, right?"

"Yes, as far as I can tell."

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