CH 79

Raygan POV

They were all sitting around at the table still waiting on Zac, at ten past seven, the boy hadn't even so much as mind-linked to their father regarding being late. Not even his own mother was impressed and had muttered about going up there and getting him.

Zac strolled in about 10 minutes after that when their father mind-linked to him and demanded to know where he was. Zac had stated, "In the private dining room where you told me to be, I've been here waiting on all of you to arrive. Were the plans changed? And you didn't bother to tell me."

He'd known where dinner was, she'd been attached to that mind-link and knew, as did her father and practically everyone in this room; that he just didn't want to attend and was now making it look like he was told the wrong room. He was playing the stupid card, it seemed, and then he strolled into the ballroom on his own, wearing simple light blue linen slacks and a short-sleeved untucked dress shirt. Come casual and not formal as had also been requested of him.

She saw the annoyance roll right off of her father at his attire. He'd been informed it was a formal dinner in the ballroom. Had ignored it, it seemed. "Zac, your lateness is unacceptable and disrespectful to all here, not just Alpha Karsyn, but myself as well."

"You told me the wrong place," Zac stated with a shrug as though he didn't care, "or I must have heard wrong. I was kind of busy when you made the announcement."

"Your attire?" his own mother questioned him, and her annoyance could be heard by everyone in the room, including Zac himself.

Zac again shrugged, "Like I said, I must have heard wrong, I was busy."

"Busy with what exactly?" Their father snapped right at him, "Because from where I am sitting you are continuing to be very rude because you want to be and to not just our guests."

Zac looked around the room and glared right at her. She was sitting right next to Karsyn, who was sitting at the end of the table. Where Zac should have sat as the next in line. Where she herself would normally sit for a dinner like this. It didn't go unnoticed by Zac that he was not in that seat, and he looked more than ticked off about it.

Karsyn's arm was draped along the back of her chair and his hand was casually curled around her shoulder on the other side, showing all, she was his Mate and that he liked that she was, a full display of not only ownership but affection.

"Why should I be respectful to the enemy? Who brought war to us and for what? No reason at all, I believe. We didn't kidnap his sister."

He got growled at by their father and turned to look at him, more than a little surprised by it, frowned now. " Why are you so angry all of a sudden? Or did one of them poison you? Like one of them did their own Alpha."

She looked at Karsyn, who snorted with amusement, didn't understand why he found it funny at all, until he

spoke that was, "Well, if he did get poisoned by the same drug. It takes weeks to months to affect an Alpha Wolf. Which means it's someone who's been here for that long, likely someone new to the pack, seeing as it's not happened before, wouldn't you think?"

Zac was glaring at him now, understood the implication; that Karsyn was implying it was his own mate. " Where is your Mate? I've not met her. She'd be new to this pack, right?"

"She is unwell, that was why I was distracted, is upstairs throwing up currently, being pregnant with an Alpha pup is wreaking havoc on her, it seems."

Raygan looked at him and then at Kar, "Karsyn isn't your stepmother Renee, an omega."

"Yes, Renee is an omega. Why?"

"Did she have trouble carrying an Alpha pup?"

"No, Danny was a surprise too, only had mild growing pains, no different to what you had this evening up in *our* suite," he put emphasis on the our and then smiled right at her, "Thank you for letting me ease your pain by rubbing your belly." His free hand slid right on to her tummy and caressed it for all to see.

"Well, not everyone is that lucky." Zac shot at them. Then he finally took his place at the table. Their father had not sat him next to him where he would normally go as the second Heir to the pack either. No, he was all the way down the table, seated after her father's Alpha Unit.

"Perhaps I should send the pack doctor up to see her." Gina stated, "If the girl is that ill, perhaps its best she is moved to the pack hospital."

"She doesn't want that mother, would rather I be with her, as would I," he stated.

Raygan watched his own mother stare right at him, what Mate didn't want their unwell mate seen to by the pack doctor.

"This is not the right protocol for an heir." He stated as he sat down finally.

"Well, perhaps Zac, if you could have been bothered to turn up on time and dressed appropriately. Be the respectful Alpha that you should present yourself as, regardless of the company, perhaps I would have sat you correctly. But even I doubted you would turn up to this dinner, with the attitude you've been displaying ever since Raygan has gotten a Mate. So, I sat you where a spoiled child is to be sat."

She watched as Zac's jaw started to tick, and he went to get up. He found himself with hands on him from both sides and pressed right back into his seat, by Yule, and Brenner her Delta. "Sit." They both stated at the same time.

She couldn't help but smile, both of them, father and son, sounded so much alike, the same inflection and commanding tone. She saw Zac glare at one, then the other at being made to stay in his seat.

"Zac, you didn't answer Karsyn's question about your Mate." She prompted him.

He looked right at her for a long minute, and she watched his eyes turn hard, before he stated, "I don't really want Dee near the enemy."

"Is Dee short for something?" Karsyn asked right away, just ignored the comment about being the enemy,

he wasn't going to be antagonized into aggression by Zac.

"It is, but that is none of your business, and to be honest, I don't want you, the enemy, knowing my Luna's name."

"I'm not your Enemy Zac, and I think if you took a moment to get to know me, you'd see I am a genuinely nice person. Well-liked by most."

"That's not what I've heard." Zac stated.

"Oh, is that so? Where did you hear things about me?" Karsyn asked right away.

"Yes, Zac. How did you hear anything about Karsyn? We don't communicate with anyone from Cold Moon. So please tell us. Who told you, when and what they said exactly?" Raygan asked, "I've not even heard anything about him, not even what he looked like."

Karsyn snorted, 'Well wasn't that for the best!' He murmured down the mind-link.

"I hear lots of things at the university, from their own pack members. I may not speak to them, but I hear them. They don't much like Karsyn."

"Really?" it was Luna Mika. "Considering he's been away at war, and they didn't know him until a few months ago. How is that possible? From my understanding, the pack actually does like him, more so than his own father. Are looking forward to his ascension. He is way more laid back and fair than Steffen is. Name the pack members Zac, so I can go and have them all lashed or banished from the pack. *I won't stand for traitors in my pack."* she grated out that last sentence.

She watched Zac turn and stare at the woman. Mika stared right back, she was not going to be pushed around by him and knew the truth of the situation as well, was warning him in a roundabout way that no traitor would be living inside her pack. And it had been her pack once for many years after the war until Steffen was old enough to take over.

"I don't know their names, only heard them." he finally stated with an uncaring shrug and looked away from her. Couldn't it seem to hold her direct gaze.

Not much of an Alpha if he couldn't bluff completely, Raygan thought absently.

"Then you must know what they look like." Mika stated without hesitation, "We'll go to the university tomorrow, you and I. You can point them all out and I will instate the harshest of punishments for anyone involved in disrespecting our Heir. My grandson."

Everyone was watching him now. Would he do that, inflict punishment on unsuspecting pack members to try and save his own ass? It was likely that all he'd heard about Karsyn was from Demi herself. Likely the girl didn't actually like Karsyn, though why who the hell knew he was not unlikeable. Even as the enemy, she couldn't fault him on his behavior.

She had no hope of rejecting him even if she had wanted to. The man was charming and persistent. It was likely Mika was right that his pack liked him. Would have gotten to know him in the six months that he had been home and was liked by them. He always made her smile or laugh or shake her head with amusement. And she knew he wasn't even really trying to, it was just his natural personality.

"I didn't take much notice of what they looked like, just heard them was all," he waved it off, "Perhaps you should all just go back to your own pack and order all at the university to state the truth of the matter."

"That would be unfair to the ones who are loyal," Karsyn told him, "Leave it, grandmother. I will look into it myself. Perhaps one of them saw young Demi with new friends. I haven't had the opportunity to speak with all of them yet. Some of them were off on internships. We'll find Demi grandmother, bring her home safe from those harming her. After I rip that man's head clean off his body, for harming my little sister."

Raygan watched as Zac's eyes move right to Karsyn, though Karsyn was looking at Luna Mika and not Zac, she wondered just what Zac was thinking. Karsyn's tone had been calm, but it was likely everyone in this room, including Zac, would know that Karsyn, an Alpha, would likely do that, had the right to even.

She watched as Mika sighed softly, "I would like that, Karsyn. I'm glad you came home to take over the investigation. Your father was completely out of control."

"To be expected," her own father stated, "after some of the things Karsyn here has explained to Raygan and I, the state of young Demi," he sighed heavily to himself, "even I want to help find her, the poor creature, even though I've not seen the pictures." he shook his head, "Don't really want to. Must be in agony all the time, and 2 months missing." he sighed.

"I will find her and punish the one responsible." Karsyn stated, "I love my little sister and whoever had the hide to snatch her and harm her. Well, that person is in for a world of torture. I've declawed wolves to get information. De-fanged vampires during interrogation. Even cut off wings and removed digits as well."

"They have no idea about the training one gets in the kingdom, in order to pull information from others." Rick nodded, "Gruesome indeed."

She was watching Zac now, saw his eyes widen. "That's just the basics of torture Zac. I learned much more than that. Can flay skin off the bone and keep one alive. That was King Sebastian's personal torture choice. "

"He's not in charge anymore." Zac stated right away.

"No, but I still know how to do it." she smiled at him. They were all just giving him food for thought about the punishments he might receive for being a traitor or getting to the bottom of why he and Demi did this to their packs.

"Enough talk of horrid things at the dinner table." Her father stated as their meals were brought in.

"Agreed." Karsyn smiled, "I don't want my gorgeous mate feeling queasy, needs to eat properly for our pup to be good and strong."

Everyone sat and chatted, talked, and got to know each other. Karsyn made not only her father laugh but also his entire unit, with little effort, as did Rick for that matter. Those two were very charming and funny, it seemed.

Zac was sitting eating quietly at the table, didn't interact with anyone at all, and only gave simple or monosyllable answers to questions asked of him. Dee, as Demi was referred to, was brought up several times. And Zac just stated I'm not discussing her with them here. He got more agitated with the more questions directed at him, and even more so, when his own mother and their father openly tried to talk

about her, he had snapped at them, "Don't discuss my Luna in front of them." and then had stalked from the ballroom the moment dinner was over, and Karsyn brought up training in the morning at 0500 for Zac and his unit. Zac did not like that at all.

He was told by her father with full Alpha tone, "You'll train with Karsyn or be shipped off to the kingdom for 4 years, if you're even one minute late, Zac. I'll be taking you there myself 5 minutes after you don't turn up. The choice is yours as to where you train. Here or the kingdom?"

Zac had stopped walking and stared at their father, then just stalked from the room in anger, hadn't said anything at all, just glared right at their father and then Karsyn, who smiled at him, "I'm an early riser, I'll meet you out there, please be on time."

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