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He sighed, "she's fine, her wolf is already healing her, we've cleaned her wounds, we believe her wolf will handle the rest" 1

"Ava" I smiled

"Yes, your Luna's wolf is a strong one, stronger than most. She just needs proper rest, her body is exhausted, if there's nothing else, I'll take my leave now" He quickly bowed and left

Ignoring the fearful gazes of the nurse, I walked straight to Aella and took a seat next to her, caressing her face softly.

"She looks so peaceful," Eden said, voice lowered.

"I know buddy," I smiled.

I could feel Kaden's worried gaze from behind, the hushed whispers between him and Celeste

"Out with it" I finally asked, since they wouldn't.

"Well...." Kaden began, hesitating for a moment



"More packs have lost its members, the Alpha's are wondering if they could have a meeting with you" Celeste completed rolling her eyes at Kaden

"Yes, exactly what she said"

"And.." I continued, there was no way this little bit of information has Kaden fidgeting and difficult to inform me

"The Alpha's are gathering at the pack, demanding to see you"

"What?" my voice lowered, calmer than I expected

"Xavier and Brianne are managing the situation but their Auras are disturbing the ordinary pack members"

"How dare they" a growl slipped out of my lips.

A fowl and familiar scent wafted through my nose, "what the hell is he doing here" I thought.

I turned to Kaden, "have them know I won't be leaving my mate's side anytime soon, and I won't mind reminding them the consequences of daring to cross me if even a hair from just one person in my pack is harmed."



"Yes, Alpha" he nodded and turned to leave, opening the door a figure fell to the floor

"To what do I owe this pleasure, Crux?" I snarled, his presence felt particularly irritating right now

"Alpha Eros," he greeted, flustered "I heard that Ael..."

"You must have a death wish" the words tore out of me, "address her by such names again and it would be the last thing you use your tongues for"

His feet moved back subconsciously,

"I just wanted to check how she was doing" he muttered

"And what happened to checking on your soon to be Luna?"

"I didn't think..."

"You didn't think your Luna was worth checking on? Or you were too busy thinking about mine to remember yours?"

His mouth opened but no sound came out of it, words seemed to dry up in his mouth.

"I will say this only once," I closed the distance between us, my aura closing in on



him, his knees wobbled and he fell to his knees unable to withstand the pressure

"You made your choice the day you decided to reject her for her sister"

Colour drained from his face, "how did you...."

"Silence is not ignorance, do not take me for a fool Crux. You will not so much as look in her direction ever again, you will not breathe in her direction, I don't need to tell you what will happen if you go contrary to these simple rules. Do I?"

"But..."

My voice dropped into a low feral rumble
"Do I make myself clear?"

"Yes" he answered, resignation written across his face.

"Good," I nodded in satisfaction, "now scam before I decide to end you." The words came out guttural and raw, sounding nothing remotely human.

He scrambled to his feet, running away with what little piece of dignity he believed he had,



"Trash" I spat, "who the hell let him in here" Eden rumbled

"It's his pack" I rolled my eyes,

"Whatever, you could have let me claw out those eyes that were looking at my mate" he grumbled

"Now's not the time" I sighed, returning to my place, beside Aella.

Colour has returned to her face, but she showed no signs of life, laying motionless.

"Hey doll, wonder if you can hear me." I took a steadying breathe, I could feel the slight tremor of my voice

"I'm so sorry, I should have been there, I should have tried harder, I should have protected you, I couldn't even do something so simple," my voice broke the more I spoke

Time blurred by with me sitting by her side, waiting for even a twitch, my eyes never leaving her for even a second.

Eden hasn't said a word, but I could feel his guilt etched in my bones, it was like a deep pit, none of us could escape.

"Eros" Kaden called from the door,



"Hmm" I replied without taking my eyes off Aella

He sighed, "You should eat something, Luna would want you to take care of yourself"

"She'd also want me to protect her" I muttered

"Stop blaming yourself, there's no way you would have known" he muttered

"This is the second time she's in such a state under my care, do you know how it feels?" I asked calmly

"E.."

"No" I shook my head, "there's no need to sugarcoat the fact that I have failed to protect my mate, I've left her to fend for herself on life threatening occasions"

"It's not your fault"

"Leave" I ordered

"But.."

"Now!!"

His jaw tightened, he hesitated, "I'll call the doctor to check on her, try to eat" he dropped the tray, before finally leaving, the sound of his footsteps lingering in the air.



Soon, the stubby man from earlier returned looking like he'd rather be anywhere but here,

"You said she'll be awake soon?" I asked, my voice flat

"She...s...she should have woken up" he stuttered

"Are you messing with me?" I said evenly

"No Alpha" he fell to his knees,

"Seems like I'll need to make an example of you" I pinched my brow, Eden stirred, his patience already thinned out.

I drew a deep breath, restraining him,

The doctor's face turned ashen, his eyes fell on Aella like she was his salvation.

"W...wa..wat..e.r" a hoarse sound came from behind me

I froze, has my impatience led me to delusions?

"Water" it said again, this time firmer, that snapped me out of it.

"Aella"

