

CHAPTER 77

Kai POV

I'm absolutely ropeable. How on earth did Winter get attacked at a summit full of werewolves for fuck's sake? The security team has dispersed, seeking out camera footage and the only one permitted even near her at the moment is the blasted doctor. I hover near the bed where she's been placed while the doctor does his best to ignore me and the low grows I'm giving out every few seconds. Storm is dangerously close to the surface and it's taking all my willpower not to shift and cause a panic. Shifting would be a very bad idea, even if I wanted to hurt someone right now and cause damage to everything that's in my path. I have to keep Storm back for everyone's sake, even if I'm tempted to let him go berserk. It would serve everyone right.

"How is she?" I demanded and the doctor sighed, looking up at me with a woebegone expression. I tense.

It's not the first time I've asked and it damn well won't be the last. He can just deal with my presence whether he likes it or not. He sees the look in my eyes and speaks with me, trying not to let his impatience show. Good, he does not want to push me right now, not while I'm this insanely angry.

"She's resting for now. I've bandaged her wounds and attached an IV. I'm concerned though because there appears to be wolfsbane in her system. I'm trying to flush it out, but it's going to take a while."

I stopped in my tracks. Wolfsbane. No wonder Winter couldn't mind-link me when she was in trouble. The guilt is eating me alive. I should never have left her there in that room, I should have just waited until she got up and escorted her downstairs. I'm a complete imbecile. My hands are clenched into fists. I'm so angry, but a lot of the anger is directed at myself.

There's a knock on the door and the security team comes hustling in, one of them, presumably the head honcho, so to speak, comes forward to speak to me. I glower at him. He better have some goddamn answers for me.

"Alpha Kai" he greets me stiffly "I would like to speak to you in private" he murmurs, shooting a look at the doctor, who is still hovering over Winter, who is lying deathly still on the bed.

"I don't think this is the right time" I shot out impatiently, but he merely raised an eyebrow at me.

He's cool as a cucumber. I can't believe it. How does he stay so damn calm?

"I believe you'll want to be here for this. We have the person responsible and are about to interrogate them" he answers smoothly.

That has me whipping my head around fast. They had found who had attacked Winter, this quickly. How? A good job, I think, impressed in spite of myself.

"Where did you find them?" I growled.

"She was trying to escape through a loading dock. One of my security officers thought that her being there was unusual even though she'd dressed in a uniform she probably stole from somewhere. It was lucky he stopped her and restrained her, otherwise, she would be long gone and we'd never have caught her."

So it was a she, I thought to myself. Interesting. I looked the security officer direct in the eyes, liking that he didn't look away. "Take me to this interrogation", I ordered, and he nodded, motioning for me to follow him.

I hesitated in the doorway. The doctor gave me a knowing look. "Nothing is going to happen to her" I growled, and he gave a small nod.

"Two of my men will stay behind to make sure nothing more will happen to your mate" the leader promises, and I have to contend myself with that, as we walk downstairs to an office which he pushes open.

I was in shock as I gazed down at a young girl. She looks more like a teenager. She's clearly a shifter though, because I can sense her wolf, but she looks so young and so innocent. Not to mention I've never seen her before in my life and I'm willing to lay bets that Winter hasn't ever seen this girl before. Well, not until this morning anyway. I wrinkle my nose. There's the smell of blood all over the girl, the metallic scent and my eyes widen in anger as I step inside the office, the leader of the security team directly behind me, as he closes and locks the door, I glare down at the girl. I can smell my mate's blood all over her and Storm is going nuts, ready to tear this girl to shreds. I had to put a mental block up, preventing him from taking control. He's not pleased with me.

She's been restrained with silver cuffs to the table and looks miserable. She's pale, ashen. Her lip is quivering. I feel no satisfaction in this. Something seems wrong about this entire scenario. Still, I advance on her.

"Why did you try to kill my mate" I thundered and she flinched, biting her lip but refusing to speak.

God help me for what I'm about to do. I grab hold of her head and smack it on the table. She hits the corner and begins to bleed. I harden my heart. She's attacked, my mate. I'm not about to feel sorry for her.

"You attacked my mate" I repeated and she still says nothing, but I can see her whole body is trembling as she sits in the chair, unable to move away due to her restraints which are burning her skin.

I glanced over at the security guy who was standing there with his arms folded. Finally, I caught a glance at his name badge. It reads Teddy. It's almost enough to make me smile. Imagine a big hulking guy with a name like Teddy. The irony. He seems unfazed by the violence I'm exhibiting towards his prisoner.

"You might as well talk," Teddy says casually, walking over to the table. I hadn't even stopped to notice the knife that was in a white transparent bag. "We found the knife and the victim's scent was all over you. There's no way you're getting out of here alive" he said, and even I flinched. It might seem a little harsh, but it was a violent attack and Winter could have died. Still might be because of this girl.

"If I'm going to die, then what's the point of talking," the girl says harshly, and I'm taken aback. So she does have a voice after all.

"Listen," I said, slamming my hands on the table so hard that it made her jump "I've never seen you before and neither has my mate. That in itself is suspicious. What reason could you possibly have for the attack? My mate's never done a thing to you." At least I'm reasonably sure of that. Somehow, I can't picture Winter having done anything bad toward anybody, let alone hurt another human being. It's not in her nature.

The girl looked away. She looks like she's about to cry now. I narrowed my eyes at her. Something's off. You don't attack someone and then cry about it. At least not that I've ever seen anyway.

"I can't talk" she finally says, not looking at me or Teddy, who now looks extremely interested.

"Why not," I demanded heatedly, "did someone put you up to this? We can't help you if you won't even help yourself", I added with a low growl. Nailed it. The second I asked if someone put her up to it, she went paler than a ghost. A dead giveaway.

"I'm going to die anyway, you just said it," the girl said dully.

"Not if you were put up to it," I said with a scowl, glancing over at Teddy, who is nodding in agreement. The girl looks hopeful but then looks down at the floor.

I grab hold of the dagger, opening the bag enough to show the blade as she flinches. "I will cut your fingers off, one by one, if you don't tell me what I need to know", I threatened.

Now she looks absolutely terrified. Good. Still, she refuses to speak. Teddy doesn't make a move. He knows this is between her and me.

I force her hand down on the table as she wriggles and squirms. I spread her fingers out and lined up the knife. This is going to hurt like a bitch, but she needs to start talking.

"One more chance," I said, the dagger raised in my hand.

Tears formed in her eyes but she said nothing.

I bring the dagger down on her finger and sever it completely as she screams. Blood spurts everywhere and Teddy somehow finds some bandages to bandage it.

"Fuck" she yells and I merely raise my eyebrows at her.

"Talk" I spit out. She sobs wildly at me.

"I can't" she cried out.

"Can't or won't" I grunted out, raising the dagger again as Teddy moved away.

"They'll kill me," she says and I stop, glancing over at Teddy. "You don't understand" she sniffles, "they have my family and they'll kill them."

Now we're getting somewhere. Though it pains me, I raise the dagger again. "Speak" I mutter.

She says nothing and I grimace, severing another finger as she screams and howls, her flesh burning and effectively cauterizing the wound from the silver.

"No more" she pleads, sobbing "please no more."

"Then talk" I thundered impatiently, "because I will cut every finger off if you don't start speaking. Who has your family?"

She looks away. There are tear stains on her face and tears trickling down her cheeks. When she finally speaks, it's in a wavery, shaky voice that's full of fear.

"Alpha Liam has my family. He told me if I didn't kill your mate, then he would kill them when he got home. I didn't have a choice."

I'm puzzled though and a bit suspicious. "Why would he want my mate dead? He'd never even met Winter before the summit. Sure, we don't like each other, but that's no reason to kill my mate."

"It's that girl" she cries and I stiffen. "Ever since she came along, he's been different. Changed. He's no longer the nice Alpha he used to be. She has him wrapped around her finger and everyone in the pack hates her."

"Candice," I said slowly, and the girl gave me a nod.

"I would bet anything it was her idea. She hates your mate and she hates that you broke up with her. It's all she ever talks about" the girl sniffled.

That bitch. I was going to kill her. Teddy was looking nonchalantly at me.
"What would you have us do?"

"Alpha Liam is your problem" I muttered "I want Candice restrained and taken back to my pack. She's not getting off lightly this time, the traitorous bitch. I should have killed her before."

Teddy raised his eyebrows but gave a firm nod, before hesitating and swinging his chin towards the young girl who was sobbing wildly and looking hysterical.

"What's her name?" I asked quietly.

"Chantelle," Teddy said, "what do you want to be done with her?"

Chantelle's head swings around and she looks at me pleadingly.

"Let her go free. She's already lost two fingers today as punishment and she didn't have a choice", I murmured as the girl's eyes lighted up "make sure her family is OK as well", I ordered.

"Done" Teddy agrees, fetching a key and undoing Chantelle's restraints. "But she needs to stay here while we apprehend the other two and you can't interfere either," he tells me. I nodded reluctantly. I have to let them do their jobs. Chantelle is agreeable as well.

"I'll be in the room with Winter when you're done," I said coldly, storming away. I can't wait to get my hands on that bitch Candice and show her what happens to those that try and harm my mate. She's gone way too far this time. I began to plot my revenge.