

Sanctuary: A Hidden Pack (New Edition)

Chapter 6 Alliance

Keir I know he has a safe in his office and in his bedroom, and I hope for my sake it is in the safe in his office. For some reason, the Omega knows not to speak with me out loud as she asks through the mind-link if I found what I had been looking for, and I tell her I need to go to the Alpha's office to see if it is in his safe. *"He also has a safe in his office on the Alpha floor, but he hardly uses that one as no one ever goes in there. He might have left it out in the open if he keeps it in that office."* She says. I decide to check his private office first. We both walk up to the Alpha floor, using the stairwell for the Omegas. She stays on the lookout again as I enter the Alpha floor; I nearly lose control of Echo when I see pictures of Lakota spread out across a table and both our files are lying open with sticky notes all over them. Looks like our Alpha might not have been so dumb after all; some notes are on my behavior and some are on Lakota's behavior. He even suspected us to sneak out of the Pack-house at night, but he had never been able to prove anything as he always found Lakota on our floor if he checked up on her. He thought I might have been a Beta Wolf, but that I accepted the Gamma position to hide from someone. I don't want him to be able to find any other clues, so I grab everything from the table, and I even check his laptop to see if he made a digital back-up. I smile when I see that every picture was deleted from the laptop at some point, and remembering a trick I learned years ago, I reset the laptop to factory settings. I do the same to Jace's laptop when I see that the pictures are in a file on his laptop, and I smile as I imagine the look on their faces when they realize everything is gone. I leave the Alpha floor the same way we got up there, and on the Gamma floor, our ways part; through the mind-link I thank her for her help. I show Lakota and Lance everything I found, and I tell Lance the truth about my past, about who Lakota and I truly are. "I always suspected there was more to the two of you than that you showed anyone; I hadn't expected to find myself in the company of Lycans, though." He says as he looks through the pictures once again. The next day is spent preparing for our departure; we will be leaving after midnight to avoid as many Pack-members as possible. **Lakota** I have checked my backpack for the umpteenth time since I woke up; I keep feeling as if I am missing something, and for the life of me, I can't figure out what it is. Lotus is fast asleep in the back of my head as she kept watch all night; not that she doesn't trust Dad or Lance, she just wanted to be prepared in case something would happen. "Lala, what is wrong?" Dad asks, and Lance is in stitches as he hears Dad call me by the nickname Mom gave me, and that is when it hits me; I know what I forgot to put into my backpack. I kiss Dad on the top of his head as I walk past him, and I yell thank you over my shoulder as I run back to my room. I slide under my bed to push up a floorboard in the middle of the floor, and I grab the metal box I hid there years ago; it contains the things I treasure most in life. One is a picture of me with Mom and Dad; the other is a necklace that has been passed down for generations in my Mom's family. It is a blood-red crystal in the middle of a golden moon, the sign of Crystal Blood Pack, and I decide to wear it instead of leaving it in the box. I place the picture inside one of my notebooks, and I walk back into the living room to hear Dad and Lance discuss our options after we leave the territory. Lance knows where we want to go, and he is tracing every possible route with his finger; he quickly disregards two routes as they lead past too many hostile Packs. Leaving us with three other routes we can follow, each with their own set of challenges, and as we discuss the Packs we will have to pass, Lance tosses another route out of the window. "This one will lead us past Hollow Moon Pack, and they have an

alliance with this Pack; he will have no problem with selling us out. It will be best to avoid them if that is possible." Lance explains, and I smile as I see Dad nod at his words; looks like it was a good idea to ask Lance to join us. Two routes remain after that, and Lance asks Dad which route has the most friends along the way. "Why do you ask, Lance?" Dad asks him, and Lance tells us that we might be able to reestablish those friendships, giving us an advantage in the future. "If they know where you want to settle down, they might be able to help with rebuilding the territory or warn us if someone drops by asking questions about us." Lance states, and I see a surprised look on Dad's face; I don't think either one of us had thought about that. We just thought about getting out of here, but we never thought about the future and any help we might need from someone. I look at the map in front of us, and both routes hold an equal amount of friends, but I don't know if any of them ever had an alliance with Crystal Blood Pack.

