

Chapter 115

The first light of dawn filtered through the curtains as Ethan approached Kasia's room, a tray laden with breakfast in hand. He rapped gently on the door, announcing his presence, before pushing it open. The scent of warm pastries and freshly brewed coffee wafted into the room, filling the air with an inviting aroma.

"Breakfast is served," Ethan declared, a wry smile playing on his lips as he entered. His eyes locked onto Kasia, who was sitting on the edge of the bed, her posture tense. She looked as if she had not slept the entire night.

Her scent filled the room, reminding him that she was his mate. He gripped the tray tightly in an effort to maintain his composure.

Kasia's gaze flickered to the tray, then back to Ethan. Ethan wore a form-fitting short-sleeved orange shirt and blue jeans. He was absolutely massive, far more in shape than Austin.

"Stop it! What are you thinking? He's a monster!" Kasia scolded herself. Her eyes met his, and she noticed the smirk on his face. A blush rose to her cheeks, and she turned her head away from him. "I'm not hungry," she declared, a stubborn set to her jaw.

Despite her resistance, Ethan placed the tray on the small table near the window. "That's a shame. Janet makes the best pastries," he remarked, his tone light. He pulled out a chair, gesturing for her to join him.

"And whose Janet? Your mate?" Kasia asked.

"No, not at all. You met her. You put a blade on her back," Ethan replied.

"I never intended to harm her. I just wanted my sister," Kasia defended.

"And that's why she didn't snap your neck," Ethan added with a cryptic smile.

Kasia eyed him warily before suddenly lunging for the door. Ethan quickly caught her, spinning her around and pushing her back toward

the table. Touching her sent electricity through both of their bodies, causing Ethan to reluctantly release her as her skin felt so smooth under his touch.

"How did you do that?" Kasia stammered.

"I'm a Lycan; you know that," Ethan responded.

"No, that feeling. How did you do that?" Kasia asked.

"I don't know what you're talking about. Sit. Eat," Ethan lied, taking a seat. "Consider this a peace offering, or would you prefer me to handcuff back to the bed?"

The air in the room cracked with tension as Kasia hesitated, her gaze flicking between the food and Ethan. Finally, with a resigned sigh, she sat down. The two ate in silence for a while, the only sounds being the occasional clink of cutlery against plates.

As they finished the meal, Ethan broke the silence. "I'm not keeping you here to harm you, Kasia. I want you to understand that."

Kasia's eyes narrowed as she studied him. "And why should I believe you?"

"Because actions speak louder than words," Ethan replied, rising from the table. "Now, how about I show you around? Get a sense of the territory you've found yourself in."

"How can you trust me? I could have a tracking device on me," Kasia said.

"I highly doubt that," Ethan said, "or did you forget that you told us that you were a traitor to them now? Let's stop playing games. Let me show you around."

Kasia regarded him with suspicion, but a flicker of curiosity betrayed her. With a reluctant nod, she followed him as he led the way out of the room.

The territory turned out to be a huge forest with areas of meadow. The scenery resembled something out of a fairy tale. Ethan strolled along, giving Kasia time to take it all in.

"Impressive, isn't it?" Ethan remarked, gesturing toward the sprawling terrain. "We've worked hard to create a sanctuary for our kind here."

Kasia didn't respond, her gaze scanning the area with a mix of awe and defiance. Her steps were guarded, as if ready to bolt at any moment.

Ethan, sensing her unease, stopped and turned to face her. "You won't find a way out, Kasia. We've fortified this place to keep our kind safe. Escaping isn't an option."

Kasia's eyes flashed with determination. "I found a way in. I can find a way out."

"You found a way in because we allowed you in," Ethan said. Ethan's expression remained calm, almost amused. "You can try, but you won't get far without these." He produced a small bottle from his pocket, shaking it to emphasize its contents.

Kasia's eyes narrowed at the sight of the familiar pills. "You stole those from me!"

Ethan held up the bottle, a smirk playing on his lips. "These little things are the reason you won't be sprinting through the woods anytime soon. Without them, your strength and speed are no match for mine."

Kasia's anger flared, her fists clenching at her sides. "Give them back to me!"

"Did you ever wonder what the side effects of these are? No. I will not give these back until I am certain you're not a danger to yourself or others," Ethan replied, his tone matter-of-fact. "I suggest you reconsider your options, Kasia. A truce might be more beneficial for both of us."

Kasia seethed with frustration but reluctantly nodded. A temporary truce, an uneasy alliance-she needed to regain her strength before attempting any escape.

Ethan continued the tour, showcasing the hidden corners of their sanctuary. He explained the efforts they had taken to create a safe haven for Lycans, away from the prying eyes of the Hunters. Kasia listened, absorbing the information with a mixture of resentment and curiosity.

As they walked, Kasia couldn't help but notice the genuine concern in Ethan's eyes when he spoke about protecting their kind. The conflicting emotions within her stirred-an internal battle between the loyalty she felt for the Hunters and the growing realization that not all Lycans were the enemy.

Eventually, they reached a clearing overlooking a serene lake. The water sparkled in the sunlight, and the surrounding trees created a natural barrier, shielding the area from prying eyes.

"This is a place that I alone go to," Ethan stated, a sense of pride in his voice. "A place where I can clear my thoughts."

"It's...it's beautiful," Kasia admitted.

Ethan turned to her, his eyes searching for hers. "I know this is a lot to take in, Kasia. But I want you to see that we're not enemies, and we don't have to be enemies."

Kasia frowned and said, "Nothing you say will make me trust you."

"Then I have a proposition for you. If you can outswim to the other side of the lake, I'll let you go," Ethan suggested with a melancholy glint in his eyes.

Chapter Comments

