

The Pack Rule Number 1 No Mates -

[1,185 words]

The Pack: Tule Humber 1-Ho Maies

Chapter

One Hundred-One

ong the perfd thung

He had sold. "The moment she did my heart stopped eating. My body gold pain. There's

une at all. Maybe some mate bonds are different? Or perha

person. Then again, the potete fuck up theory also seems a bit toer plaisible, post like in humans-enry now and then

The knowleder

womartar tried to hurt Demonic and he is still alive, settles over

you getting awited" Jason's

like a soft cars because I know the my lips at that thought. Unfortunately, it does not go unnoticed

in my ear. Hoy, completely welcome, and imposs

an, is probably no longer

I turn toward him, noting the bright flash of his heretic gaze. He's crazy as hell. I stow it. "Where are we going?" I ask, ignoring the suggestive path of his

'an not your baby, you unhinged freak. I study him, my thoughts skating toward Emily and the fact that she's not on this plene. "Tell me this," I start, taming my body around in my seat so that I have eyes on both of these bastards. "What did y

Jason chuckles, lifting one thick brown brow tossed the ceiling. "Really? That Betch? What do you care?

tch my neck to the side, my gaze on Thomas. "Where is she? She's innocent

I stretch

"She's not innocent!" Jason snaps. "She reeked of feral cat when she came to town. Disgusting bitch. If she wanted some shifter dick, she should have gone wolf. We wouldn't be as mad about that. We like a little slut from time to time. But she didn't. She went jungle. Gross. She had no business among us. Her pussy in

For some reason, I nearly laugh out loud at that stupid fucking statement. Simple-minded fool. Then I guess mine would be tainted too, wouldn't it?17 only I could

Thomas sighs, looking up from his phone to meet my eyes. "She is where she is. She was useless to us, so we let Gabriel deal with her Gabriel! That fucker! Of course. "What do you mean she was useless? And I'm not? She is my friend! How is going to deal with her?" She's a mateless human! Jason snipes. How good for breeding Gabriel had a score to settle with her anyway. So we left her for him."

She isn't martelers you creep. But of course, I keep that part to myself. However, the knowledge that they gave her to Gabriel doesn't sit well with me at all. He's never liked her. Who knows what he might do to her. Fixing my glare on Thomas, I decide to see what buttons make him tick. I can't believe you, Thomas Adam spoke of you like a brother. And you - you betrayed him! How could you be this way? Were you always like this? Like a well hidden snake" A bold smile lifts his mouth. "A snake. That precious.

"It's not," I hissed. "I mean, I know you cheated on your mate, but you must have loved her at one time. Or maybe, you didn't."

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Thomas dark eyes flash, the irises pole from brown to black then back again. "You have no idea what you are talking about, lead. So I were you 14 drop a

1 mides, deciding I'm on the right track. "I know that you left Port Orchard with everyone believing that your heart was broken and all

you share and her daughter." Damn, that was harsh. Should I have said all that well, too late now we already stepped in shit, might

I wouldn't be surprised if you're the one who started the fire five years ago. Jest to get rid of her. So that you'd be free for other women.

Trud" Thomas shouts, Teaping from his chair to stand in front of me. Of course med her! She was my mate! My life! He's punting, his fangs dowing in the overhead lights of the cabin. "Nothing has mattered since she died Nothing So whatever it is you're trying to get me to admit to, you're wrong. I'm just as much the dick shout who started that fire

as anyone." Puffing in a deep breath, he lowers his face in mine, Close enough that I can tell sandalwood again as if I'm chewing on it. "When Amber died, everything that was good in me died with her. So you're trying to get me to feel sorry for you or for Domonie - you can't. I'm not the one. I won't fall for that shit. The only wish I have left in my henti-is that everyone else be as miserable and lost as I have been for fire goddamned

Inod, lowering my eyes. I'm sorry."

No one knows what happened that night," he goes on, straightening up to glare down at me. "For a while, I thought it was her. That's why I invited her and her daughter Tanya to live with me. I'd hoped to find out if it was them. But it wasn't. The pair of them are too fucking stupid not to gloat about it if it had been them. So before you ask, no, I do not love Nora or her daughter. And no, I will not be feeling sorry for you."

"Your daughter." I connected him. "She's yours too"

early fumes, his face turning red as a tomato. "Only on paper," he says, before sitting down. "Fuck!"

Jason is laughing maniacally across the aisle. Grinning as wide as a circus clown. "I think I like you, baby. Can't wait to get you all to myself and Fuck all that ass of

et out of your mouth."

This time, I can't keep the sneer from my lips. "Can I sharpen my teeth first?"

Again he giggles. "Yup, she's a keeper." He licks his bottom lip in a way that I'm sure that he thinks is sexy, but reminds me of a thirsty pooch. His eyes fall over my body before zeroing in on my mouth as he grabs the front of his jeans. "Keep talking and we can get started now." I finally decide I've done enough talking and I turn away to stare out the window.

If they won't tell me where we're going, I just have to figure it out for myself. I was the brightest in school, but I remember my geography. This plane never turned once we were in the air and it was pointed south when we took off. Not to mention, I've never seen an unmarked airfield that didn't have at least some kind of

posted. So unless this pilot plans to land this puppy in a field, I should be able to figure it out.

But it's still dark when we land two hours later, and although we don't land in a field - we're sure as fuck aren't at the airport.

Stretching toward the window, I gaze outside and all I can see is dirt. Letting out a soft sigh of frustration, I sit back against my seat. Glancing toward Jason, I'm shocked to

see he's already standing in front of me, a sharp pointed object gleaming in his hand. "What the fuck is that? I screech, just as two firm hands lock onto e

my shoulders and Jason plunges a syringe into my neck.

Chapter Comments

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

[1,331 words]

Ya:bot, Thu Nov 14

The Pack: Rule Number 1 - No Mates

Chapter One Hundred-Two

DOMONIC

Gabriel's eyes are locked on my blade as I begin to cut unceremoniously into his wrist. "Jesus! Fuck!" He screams. "That thing will never make the cut properly!"

"I can always use my teeth again, I promise, flashing my fangs. "Relax, ahe. Cadence will be bringing a scalpel. I'm only cutting into you for my own selfish pleasure. I like it when you scream." I say coldly."

"I don't Paul," snaps. "He's worse than a female birthing a pup. Silence him! Once and for all."

James chuckles, tossing Gabriel's severed hand in the air over and over as if it's a baseball. The skin on this thing is turning gray. Better hurry Gabe. Tell my Alpha what he wants to know, before we have to bury the hand without its master."

"Fine! But please stop with the slicing, Gabriel pants, his eyes wilding when I drag the serrated edge along his newly formed flesh. "Arizonal They went to Arizona. Near the Grand Canyon! We have a compound there that's built into the mountain. It's where we've been keeping the females."

"Keeping the females?" I hiss, my mind winding back to the conversation I had with Alpha Michael, earlier in the day.

Our females went missing."

You have the Timber Wolf females, don't you?"

Gabriel nods, his eyes falling closed as I place the blade on the table and take a seat across from him. "We do. They all were born of shifter blood. In theory, each of them potentially has the physical capacity to be marked and mated."

I growl, my chest rumbling. "Why? What the fuck are the three of you trying to accomplish?"

His blue eyes find mine, and despite his present situation, they fill with arrogant disdain. "I knew you weren't the brightest, Domonic, but even you should see the potential in a controlled breeding environment

Paul scowls, sending a free flying punch into Gabriel's jaw for his insult.

I sneer at him, my lip twisting in disgust. "So they're your slaves then. Your sex slaves, is that right?" I always knew he had it in him. Ever since I was ten years old I caught him tying up a few of the human girls in Port Orchard. I told my dad about it back then and all he did at the time was release the females and forbid Gabriel from leaving pack grounds for the month. I knew this fucker had the potential for sadism. It's in the dark of his eyes. In the way he looks at anyone and everything as if they're beneath him. He's a born fucking weirdo and he should've been banished the moment he started showing signs of madness. He's like his father was. A vagabond.

"Not all of them," Gabriel sputters, wincing at the phantom pain in his wrist. "Only the ones that are strong enough to receive an Alpha's venom will be kept."

My eyes narrow at him, my body going cold. "Only a bonded human mate or the daughter of a shifter can survive an Alpha's venom." My eyes light with angry fire as I realize he is trying to twist the beauty of the mate bond into something that will only serve the males of a pack. "Draven's not of shifter blood. Why in fuck would you take her?"

He chuckles. "She doesn't need to have shifter blood in her veins anymore, Domonic. She's had your venom. She's carrying your child. She has your blood pumping in her veins right at this moment. She's literally carrying the missing piece of the puzzle that I've been working tirelessly to create every night since I gained access to the lab."

"What the fuck are you saying?"

"He smiles wickedly. "I'm saying - with the blood of your baby, I can create a serum that will allow the impregnating of any human female.

Whether she is a mate or not. Giving our species the ability to reproduce as we see fit

Chapter One Hundred-Two

My body tenses, fire and anger Falling into my gut. "And how the fuck do you plan to access my child's blood?"

"How do you think, Alpha Domanic?" He spits and the grin he gives me is beyond psychotic. "You had better call your daddy and tell him to hurry up with that medic if you want to save your baby. Because the clock is ticking and they will have landed in Arizona with Draven by now."

DRAVEN

My head feels hollow and my body aches with pulsating pain that rage through my blood like a churning river. I'm hot, feverish, and I can't open my eyes. The blackness of my eyelids is all that I can see and try as I might, I cannot get them to open. My lips are split, parched. My tongue is like a useless hit of sandpaper taking up the space in my mouth. I can hear my breathing - it's ragged and thick. Like a seventy year old career smoker on her deathbed, clamoring for the oxygen she needs to survive.

It feels as if I'm lying on my back with my knees drawn up. But whatever bed that I'm on shakes and whines with the clang of old metal being dragged over rock. The rusted copper of its surface tingles my nose making me want to retch. I can feel the tremors of earth beneath the scrape of wheels in desperate need of a good rolling and I want to roll over onto the ground, but I can't. Because I don't have use of limbs. The air around me is warm for winter, but cool against the scarlet flaming of my skin and for that, at least, I am grateful. I wander the marshlands of my mind with muddy feet. As if I'm in a swamp, searching for answers of who I am and what I'm doing here. How did I get here? What is my name? But that's silly, because I know my name... don't I? At least, I think I do. It's just there, on the tip of my head. on my tongue. At the edge of the ever growing fog in

Fog! That's right. That's what this is, fog. My mind is clouded and I need a full breath of air to break free. But I just can't seem

to take one.

Slowly, images start to come back to me. Pictures in flashes like a message from an outside force. Domanic, Emily... Jason and Thomas, Adam. They loop and spiral, feeding into my unseeing eyes from some dank part of my mind. Something is urging me to fight the fever. To fight the raging heat that's working to cook my brain. It almost has a voice, but I can't distinguish the sound. As if some foreign part of me is attempting to fight whatever poison is scalding my insides.

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The more the surface beneath me shakes, the more my consciousness begs for acknowledgement.

Wake up! You have to wake up! If you don't, then your baby will die!

My baby! Oh God.

"Put her in my bedroom, I'll see to her later," an unfamiliar voice sounds somewhere above me. The bearer is close, his words reverberate just above my face. Echoing downward and into my ears from above as if they were spoken in a tunnel

"Your bedroom? Now why in the hell would I do that? This one is mine Put her in my room." Jason's furious words trickle from somewhere behind me. Farther away than the voice of the stranger, but close enough for my insides to curl in disgust. "Do you want an Alpha's blood all over your bed? Because I promise you, the procedure Gabriel wants me to complete is not a pretty one. There will be a lot of bloodshed, and it will be everywhere if I don't have my machines.

Procedure? What? What are they talking about?

"I'm not scared of a little blood," Jason hisses.

"Okay, well, then let me put it to you like this. If I don't have all of my equipment, I may lose the mother when I extract the child."

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

[1,661 words]

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The Pack: Rule Number 1 - No Mates

Chapter One Hundred-Three DOMONIC

Once Cadence finished sewing Gabriel's hand back on it took twenty full minutes the appendage to start healing. Once it did, he could wiggle his fingers, but the skin of his hand remained gray, just another sign that Gabriel doesn't have even a drop of Alpha blood anywhere in his veins.

An Alpha wolf is built stronger in every sense of the word. We heal quicker, grow faster, jump higher, fight harder - we even have bigger dicks - I mean, I haven't taken any measurements, but it sounds right. My eleven brethren all have a little Alpha in their blood, Beta wolves, like Paul and Koda, are more than dominant enough to lead their own packs, and despite that they know this, they still choose to follow me. It's also found that the strongest Gamings come from some type of Alpha lineage. Which is why they

are the generals, the soldiers, and the warriors to the Alpha and Beta commanders of the pack. But the twelve of us regardless of status - have always been a team. From the time we were small, we have been equals despite the Gilles we were born with.

"The helicopter is en route," Grant says, hanging up his cell. He called the tire station in Port Orchard to have them fly their helicopter out for our use. "Don't know how we're going to explain this, but lucky for us, Jaimie is the pilot. He knows there's something different about me because he once caught me scaling a bare-handed vertical up the side of Blackjack mountain - while trying to put out a fire-but he plays it cool. He won't ask any questions."

"Perfect," I say, glancing toward Cadence who for some reason hasn't stopped staring at me since she arrived. "Thanks for your help. You

can go.

Cadence's bright blue eyes shift back and forth as she tosses her honey blonde tresses out of her face. The heavy locks shift back and forth just above her shoulders with each shake of her head "Don't you think I should go with you? I mean what if Draven needs medical attention?"

My brow furrows = she does have a point, but I'm not real comfortable with the way she's been eye-fucking me since she got here. Her body language is telling me that she might cause trouble. Not because I'm attracted to her - but because she's obviously attracted to

me.

"It would be good to have a female in hand when we get to the compound," Gabriel says. "Otherwise, my early arrival will make Jason suspicious. If I bring her"-he pauses to sneer-"I can pretend she is my captive. They already know that I don't like the bitch, and they won't question it."

"Fuck you, asshole,"

Cadence quips.

"Likewise bitch," he growls.

"Enough of that," Paul scolds, before turning to me. "We probably should bring her, Paul grumbles, sending me a look that says any choice.

s we haven't

"Right," I say. "Okay." Turning to face her, my jaw clenches. "Let me warn you right now. I'm not like any other Alphas you may know. I don't give the slightest fuck about

diplomacy. If you upset my girl... even a little bit whether you mean to, or not - Ill toss you out into the wind and I don't care if we're fifty feet from the ground or a thousand."

She flinches, her eyes flashing with anger. "I would never," she says with a purse of her dainty lips

Turning toward the rest of my brothers, I say, "James and Andrew - find our dad's and help them get this freak show back under control. Timmons, you wait here for Koda and the others. They'll need to know what's going on when they got back. The rest of you are with me. The addition of Gabriel and Cadence will be a full load. We won't have space for anyone else."

Then how are we getting back with Draven?" Cadence spouts.

"That part is not important right now, Cady. Don't go pissing me off before we're even in the air."

"It's Cadence," she snaps and all but Gabriel laugh. "Not Cady."

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Chapter One Hundred-Three

Rolling my eyes, I step toward the door. "Let's get to the courtyard."

Once in my Hummer, I try to ignore the squabbling of Gabriel and Cadence as they're pressed into each other in the backseat, Bartlett taking up more than his fair share of space as he attempts to keep them in line. Paul, James, and Grant idle behind me in Paul's jeep. waiting for me to pull out of the driveway and head for the courtyard. Once Quinn is settled into my passenger seat, I nod toward the glove box. "My Desert Eagle is in there. Check the clip. Make sure it has the proper ammo."

As we race away from the cottage, I meet his eyes. He nods, flipping the mag toward me in a Bash of silver.

"Good. There's an extra clip in the secret compartment behind the dash. Something tells me, we're gonna need it." DRAVEN

Extract the child? What? No!!!!

Suddenly, everything I was feeling before begins to melt off of me like snow off a mountain. The grogginess, the fogginess, the aching of my bones - all of it dissipates in the space of a second. Even the heat I was feeling cools itself like lava finding the ocean. That quickly I am completely and irrevocably, stone-cold sober. My body stiffens, my muscles locking as I finally realize I'm being transported on some kind of cart. Not a bed, not a gurney... a wheelbarrow. Fine, Jason grumbles. "If you're sure you can

remove the child without hurting the mother, then do it. But the moment the procedure is complete, I want her back in my room."

"It will take a while. I'd much rather try to obtain the protein without removing the cells. The mother's uterus- no doubt will contain what we need, but we risk damaging her if we go that route. I have to take live samples of the baby before the child is removed, and it may not be in the proper stages yet. Even if it is, the samples must be incubated if the protein is to be properly harvested. Should the newly formed embryo die before the necessary cells are reaped, the entire procedure will have been a waste, and this female's breeding potential will be forfeit."

They're planning to kill my baby!

"So what exactly are you telling me, Benjamin?"

y and we may need to wait a month or two. "I'm saying - from what I can see, this female is still in her earliest stages of pregnancy. Depending on the cellular growth rate. She is our only human subject after all, and I don't want to squander her. It's best if I keep her sedated for now. At least until I am confident the protein can be successfully harvested."

"So basically - I can't touch her for a couple of months."

"You can but you shouldn't."

Well, harleyjah

"Why don't you just remove the little bastard, let me impregnate her again - and then you can use my

child d instead of this one.

A disgusted snort sounds above me. "First - that has to be the most sickening thing I have ever heard a man say. And second-you are not her mate. The protein obtained from your baby would not be of any use to this project." "Fine. Then in the meantime, Mister Wizard, I'll have my fun with one of your Timber females."

The metal beneath me jerks almost angrily. "So be it. But please try not to damage any more of them. Kimberly is still in a coma after your last... visit,"

Jason chuckles as all movement stops and I hear an eight button tap after something like a dial tone sounds. Then, the unmistakable pop

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Chapter One Hundred-Three

of a lock being releases. Care, Honly. It almost sounds like you care able these litches. I'd hate to think we made a mistake in trusting

"No mistake," the one called Benjamin says placatingly, but my hyper sensitive cars pick up on the careful flattening of his tone. "We just can't afford to spare any more of our supplies should you put yet, anorlier, girl in the infirmary! The cart beneath me jumps as we start moving again and I'm polled

Threshold. The space around me becomes instantly cooler,

sprouting goosellesh along my arms. The stench of iodine is heavy in the air and it takes everything in me to continue playing dead, when all I want to do is sit up and retch onto the flour,

"Well in that case," Jason says softly. "I'll make sure to kill the bitch this time."

I really, really hate that guy

Heavy footsteps sound as one of the males walks away. Their withdrawal, a slow steady echo, hinting that the floor in this place must be some kind of tile. I attempt to open my eyes, just barely, but Benjamin's voice sounds above me, stopping me cold. He whispers, "Don't do it. Just wait."

What the fuck? Is he talking to me?

As if in answer he begins to push the cart with new urgency, his feet clomping rapidly as we travel down the hall. Another swift brake and a few more button laps later, another door is unlocked and my body bumps as I'm pushed through another doorway. After a few more steps, a latch clicks into place up above me, followed by the slide of a heavy metal lock.

A moment later, I'm lifted from the bucket of the wheelbarrow and carried a few paces further into the room. My head swims with dizziness before I'm placed on what feels like an examining table, the crisp paper crinkling against my exposed flesh. A cold gentle hand traces over the side of my face before stopping to cup my jaw and tilt my head upward.

"I know that you're awake," says Benjamin. "Open your eyes."

Chapter Comments

MaryGrace Steinfeld

when is next chapter coming?

MaryGrace Steinfeld

okay, so Benjamin is going to turn out not all bad

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[1,772 words]

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The Pack: Rule Number 1 - No Mates

Chapter One Hundred-Four

DRAVEN

Whatever drug I was injected with seems to have a grip on my reflexes, but I rip my eyes open just barely. They feel like they have twin stones on them, weighing them down. My vision is blurry, and when I attempt to reach up to rub my eyes, I find I can't. But I can, however, see the man before me. He's big, with a head of thick blond hair and a pair of ice blue eyes. A long scar slices over the right side of his face from his hairline to the base of his cheekbone.

"Hello Benjamin," I spout.

"Can you move?" he asks.

"Barely." I hiss, attempting again to raise my arm, but failing. I focus on wiggling my fingers, and the movement is taxing. My body feels strange now that I am trying to use it. Like I'm swimming in a barrel of tar

"Okay. That's good. It's wearing g off already. It won't be long now," he says. "I'm going to lift your shirt and check your baby's heartbeat. Is that alright?"

I nod, my eyes filling with tears as I recall the earlier conversation between Benjamin and Jason. "Don't you dare hurt my child," I snap.

A quick grin spreads across his lips. I won't. He lifts the hem of my shirt and I feel the cool metal of a stethoscope, that I hadn't even noticed he was wearing, grazing my tummy. After a few moments, he frowns, causing a spike in my heartrate as I try to read his features. "What? What is it? Is there something wrong?"

Ho shakes his head. "Not wrong, no. But your baby's heartbeat is abnormally strong for such an early stage of pregnancy."

I smile. "Well he has a strong father."

"He?" He quirks a brow.

"That's right. He," I snap. "And you're not taking him."

He releases a slow breath, in obvious shame. Im sorry you had to hear all that. I'm even more sorry that you're here. Just hold still, I'm going to grab a bottle of water for you. It should help to flush your system. To wake you up a bit."

I take a deep breath, my eyes scanning my surroundings. The walls of this large space seem to be made entirely of orange rock. The surface is rough and unsanded. An entire wall is dedicated to medical equipment. A long steel shelf lines the opposite wall, riddled with books and stacks of thick files. A large bed is pressed against the far wall in front of me, about twenty or so feet from where I lay. I can only assume the doorway is at my back and as I still can't quite lift my arms, I guess I'll have to wait to see how secure it is. "Where are we?" I inquire as he steps up to me with an open bottle of water. "Are we underground?"

e water to my lips and lifting my head so that I can drink. "Drink slowly."

He smiles. "Sort of," he says, bringing

this

I eye the water warily. Debating with myself for a moment on whether or not I should drink it. What if it's poisoned? Or tainted with more drugs" "This better be water." I grumble, my eyes shifting toward him to study his features.

"I promise it is. If I wanted to pump you with more drugs, I wouldn't have to do it this way, now would I?"

He has a point, so I sip. The water is ice cold and dribbles down my thrust with a delicious trickle and before I know it I've downed half the bottle. "God that was good, I say, closing my eyes against the instant clarity that comes with a little hydration. My head falls back with a crinkle of paper and I drag my arms up over my stomach, gratet that my mobility is quickly improving. Popping my eyes back open to stare at the big blond male standing before me. I ask, "Now. Where are we?"

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"More or less." He sighs, settling back on a stool next to the examining table. "We're in a compound built into the side of the Grand Canyon."

You've got to be joking. Never been much of a fan of caves and tunnels, harrow my gaze, wiggling my toes in my shoes and flexing my feet upward to stretch them. "Who are you?" I ask cautiously. Attempting to push up off the table and look directly at the bastard. I'm still too weak so I end up flopping back down with a groan.

"Give it a few minutes," he says.

I settle for turning my face instead, to glare at him. "I asked you a question. Who are you?"

His eyes crinkle. "My name is Benjamin. I am the Alpha of the Timber Wolf Pack in California."

"Aha. So what are you doing here? With a sadistic fuck like Jason?"

He stands, walking over to the bed to straighten out the bed linens. "First of all, I'm not with Jason," he says, sauntering back over toward me. "I'm just as much of a captive here, as you are."

I snort. "I doubt that."

"I'm going to lift

you up

and carry you to the bed. Alright?"

"I'd rather walk," I hiss, trying to pull my knees up and failing. "Damn

He winks, "I'll carry you." He slides his arms beneath me, cradling me against his chest as he transports me across the room. Turning me around, he helps me into a sitting position so that the base of my head rests against the rock wall and my back is supported by pillows. Now I can see the other side of the room and the large wheelbarrow he rolled me in on. He takes a seat on a small wooden chair to my right, clasping his hands in front of him as he watches me.

"Okay Benjamin. Just from the conversation I heard when you wheeled me in, I'm guessing

ng that I'm not the only captive here."

He shakes his head sadly. "No, you're not. There are ten more females locked away in this place, and they all belong to my pack in California.

see. So this is the kind of shit you're into? Locking up your females?"

"No!" He scowls. "Ambassador Gabriel was a regular go between between the Red Wolf Pack and my own. He was a regular visitor. I never liked him. I always knew there was just something about him that wasn't right. Then, our females were taken from the pack when I was out of town on business," he snaps, his eyes growing dark. "I knew right away that Gabriel had something to do with it. I felt it in my bones. So I contacted him about them. Made it seem like I needed his help procuring new girls for my pack by force. Asked him to help me abduct some. That's when he brought up the Marking Ceremony."

"What's a Marking Ceremony?" I ask.

He grits his teeth, clamping his jaw so tight I'm afraid it might snap. "It's illegal. Has been for years. It's when a neighboring pack is given free reign to hunt the host packs females from midnight til dawn. A game where all male shifters chase Shiftless females of another pack-" humans?" I hiss, disgusted.

He shakes his head. "Not humans. Females born of wolf shifters. We call them Shiftless."

"So none of your females can

shift?-

He shakes his head. "No. I mean- according to my great grandfather, they used to long ago, but for the last few generations - none of

ability to survive the venom. The problem is, believe it or not, they have. However, they still have Shifter in their blood and possess

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shiten Eind their males among the Shiftless. For decades, well shifters have only found human muter. Weed to believe that could any reproduce with their mutes, but Thomas proved that that was inaccurate. One only needs to survive the venom of a

I sw, I say, but I don't. It seems to me that something must be holding their females back. If they were able to change once, they should

able to again. "So the Marking Ceremony →

"I held to force the Shiftless to take on Shifter mates. The Shifters chase them, and when they're caught-they re forcibly marked. If they survive the venom they can reproduce." That's disgusting" I snipe

He nods, "It . And most agree with you, but Gabriel... he doesn't. Neither does Jason. I'm a doctor - it's what I did for a living before 1 ended up here. Gabriel knew that and he told me that he wanted to let me in on a little project. All I had to do was abandon my pack and come work for him."

I say, not entirely sold on his story yet. "But you're a big bad Alpha. Why didn't you just kill him and take

till didn't know where he had taken them, but I know that if I agreed to go along with him - I would find them

"So you volunteered," I say softly. "For this?" I scoff, "So then why are you still here?"

your females back?

"It's not that simple," he says. "I could kill Gabriel, no problem. Thomas-Im pretty sure I could deal with him too, but Jason.....

Hei

"Crazy" I supply

"Yeah," he sighs. "I need help." He eyes me as if gaging how hard I'm willing to fight."

I nod slowly, taking it all in "I'm assuming you

have a plan then."

Your mate is the new Alpha of the Red Wolf Pack, correct?"

"He is," I say smugly, my eyes burning with just the thought of Domonic

He nods. "Does he love you?"

I glare, "What?"

"Does he love you?" he asks again.

I dont know...I fucking hope so. My eyes water, but I blink the tears back and lift my chin. "I love him! But what does that matter? how down that help?""

"You're gorgeous, Draven. And feisty as hell." He chuckles, granting me a wide knowing smile. "He loves you"

I shrug. "Maybe. I don't know. He hasn't said so yet."

"You're carrying his child. You're wearing his mark. He loves you."

That does it. My tears spill over "What does that matter? Especially if I'm locked up here with you."

"One thing every Shutter is taught, from the time they are heaven and earth to protect them."

small - is if you're lucky enough to find your fated mate- you should move

3/4

13:01 Thu. Nov 14

Chapter One Hundred-Four

Fated male?

"But he doesn't know where I am," I whisper, my eyes heating with n

How is he going to find me in fucking Arizona? How? Subconsciously, t notice it... the ache... it's gone. "Oh shit," I whisper, my eyes flying of Chapter Comments

KKN

yesyesyes!

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12

The Pack: Rule Number 1 - No Mates

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

[1,557 words]

The Pack: Rule Number 1 - No Mates

Chapter One Hundred-Five

DOMONIC

As the dying whir of the propellers is heard over the canyon, I

see Gabriel, my Desert Eagle fully loaded and cooling my hip. He stares back at me, his eyes dark and angry. His hand is still gray, and I begin to think it will always be. Even now, he flexes the damn thing as if he can read my mind.

I smirk. At least you can still use it." "Fuck you, Alpha," he spits,

It's two in the morning, and the plateau the eight of us are standing upon, glows bright with orange rock. The beauty of the landscape isn't lost on me, but at this very moment I'm cursing the fact that I choose to bring a gun. According to Gabriel, we are two miles from the compound. Two miles that would be much easier to cover if I were a wolf. I contemplate switching the safety on to carry it in my mouth, but the thought of silver bullets behind my lungs chills me to the bone. Not to mention, Cadence can't shift. I could carry her, but I'm pretty sure Gabriel showing up naked might raise a few red flags.

Running it is then.

"Lead the way, Gabe," I taunt, nodding him forward. Then, turning to Cadence, I say, "I hope you're in shape."

She dips me off and the eight of us take off at a slow jog. Not because we shifters can't run the distance in our human forms, but because Cadence probably can't. Fortunately two miles ends up being one and a half and before we know it, Gabriel signals us to stop near a jagged, near vertical, drop-off. He raises a finger, pointing toward the bottom of the canyon some two hundred feet below us and I sharpen my eyes, the glint of a heavy metal door barely visible in the distance.

That's it," he says, "It's a coded entry. No cameras or glands. We haven't had need of them, so we never put them in. Because of the canyon, wi-fi is not an option and as wolves, we just never thought they were necessary."

I nod, catching his eye. "If there are no guards, then why do you need to go in first?' I ask.

He shrugs. "I thought I might keep Jason and Thomas occupied. Give the rest of you a shot at coming in undetected."

Paul laughs, shoving Gabriel toward the edge of the ravine as he steps forward. "I don't think so, Gabriel. That doesn't make much sense. What's to stop you from locking us out once you're inside?"

He has a definite point, and being this close to Draven, I'm beginning to get a little anxious. I whip out my gun. "You know what? I think I

have a better idea."

Gabriel tenses, his gaze focusing on the gun in his face. "By all means. Give me another way you're going to get in and get out without being detected."

I chuckle, my chest rumbling with the irony of Gabriel's inability to disguise his natural cowardice. I lean close, lowering my gun. "Who said a goddamn thing about getting out undetected? I plan to kill Jason and free each and every female you have locked in that fucking place."

"The deal was for Draven," Gabriel snaps. "You said that was all that you wanted!"

I sneer down at him, stepping closer and pressing him a tiny couple of inches away from the ledge. He swallows thickly, shaking in his boots. I remind him, "That was before I had to chew your fucking hand off, now wan't it? The only deal you have left to take now, is the one that leaves you alive."

"Fine," he snaps, the anger in him shining bright in his eyes.

He must have thought he could live out his banishment here. In this place, With Jason and Thomas and all the females they have locked

1/3

Chapter One Hundred-Five

inside. Not going to happen. I couldn't in good conscience leave them away. Even if we had made that original deal. Draven would never let me get away with that.

"Now," Grant says, eyeing the rocks for the best route of descent. "How many wolves will we be fighting against? Who is in there?"

Gabriel sighs, tuming around to Ence the drop, "Just Jason, Thomas, and Benjamin."

"Benjamin?" I flinch, my mind running over the meeting with Michael and Rafael, the Timber Wolves from the day before. "Alpha Benjamin?"

He smirks, his eyes twinkling with glee. That's right." He shrugs. "Those are his females in there, and to free them would be against pack

Again I laugh. "Silly little Gabriel. Haven't you noticed? My brothers and I don't give one little fuck about pack law," I smile, turning toward Cadence. "You'll wait up here. I don't think there's any hope of you climbing down this incline."

She nods stiffly, her eyes wandering over the edge of the embankmentarily, "I agree. And, I probably should have mentioned it before, but I'm more than a little afraid of heights."

I chuckle, my eyes

eyes roving over my brothers for the one that should stay behind. "Bartlett, you stay out here and watch over Cadence and the exit. The moment you see the females exit, you'll need to climb down and guide them to safety. Just in case my fight with the Alphas makes its way outside." I meet their eyes, my jaw going tight. "We take Thomas alive. His kill does not belong to us. He's Rainier's father. It's his.³

Fauls growls. "But isn't he the one who stole Draven from us?"

I nod, my answer clipped, "Yes."

"Thomas hates his father," Grant states, his gaze narrowing. The kill belongs to all of us."

My mind wars with that truth and I can't deny that I want to tear his head off, but... Rainier is one of our brothers and I'm afraid that if we kill Thomas outright, it will drive a stake right through the very heart of our pack. "We keep him alive," I say. "For now."
DRAVEN

Are

"Are you sure?" Benjamin asks, his shoulders tensing at my remark, "Hes close?"

Tears burn behind my eyes as I realize it's true. He's here! He's somewhere nearby! "This mate thing is so weird," I chirp, rubbing my hands over my chest then my belly as if to soothe my unborn child's fears.

He laughs. "Ill take your word for it. I haven't been fortunate enough you to know what it's like, but my mother told me all about it." He sighs. "She always knew when my dad was in danger, or when he was hurt-he pauses, bis eyes locking on mine-"when he was close." I nod, the bud of excitement blooming in me as I realize he's somewhere just outside these walls. I don't know-how he discovered where Td been taken, and I don't care. All that matters is that he's here to save me. A sudden stab of love, so blissful it's nearly painful, plunges into my heart and I concentrate on it. Closing my eyes and willing it forth. I send it toward hgor, pushing it out. Commanding it to climb behind these walls and settle on Domonic. If magical things like mate bonds are true, if they are real then maybe I can send my love toward him. Maybe if I do, then he will feel it and know that I'm in here waiting.

Benjamin stands, glancing around almost frantically. "When the bolt on the door is slid closed, no one can enter this space. Not even with the code." He eyes me, studying my body from head to toe. "Do you think you can walk yet?"

I sigh, wiggling my legs groggily. "I don't know," I say honestly, closing my eyes and willing my legs up so that my knees are bent in front of me. I'm panting, and the movement is tiring, but... I think I might be able to. "Maybe."

He snorts, "That's a no then. All you did was bend your knees and your legs are shaking. It will be a few minutes."

2/3

13:01 Thu, Nov 14

Chapter One Hundred-Five

I groan, "Don't you have anything you can give me to counteract the drug they injected me with?"

His lips form a thin line, banking on a frown. "Nothing that will be helpful."

"Damn it," I hiss, my eyes scouting the room.

I reach for a water bottle. "Mori, water?"

He nods. "That will help, but it won't make a significant enough difference. I need to get out there and ready the girls for escape, don't want to leave you in here vulnerable, I could position you next to the door, but if you can't walk yet, chances are you can't: without support."

"How long will it take for you to ready the girls?"

He shrugs. "I don't know. It depends on where Jason is right at this moment. Thomas is almost always locked away in his room when here, but he doesn't usually remain long. With what he did to you, I doubt he's planning to head back, so there's no telling where he might be now that he has to stay."

"Can't the girls remain locked away?"

"Until Domonic kills Jason?"

His eyes flutter, squinting at me as he lifts his chin. "You seem pretty confident, but I don't think you realize how strong Jason is. As a wolf, he is massive. Bigger than any I have ever seen."

I grin, my lips twitching up in a half smile. Then you havent seen my mate."

Chapter Comments

13

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[1,613 words]

The Pack: Rule Number 1 - No Mates Chapter One Hundred-Six DOMONIC

Our climb down the ravine was a bit more difficult than I'd hoped it would be. Gabriel lost his footing twice and fell once. Luckily Grant was just below him when it happened and was able to catch him while keeping a firm grip on the rocks. He half carried him the rest of the way down.

Now, we stand at the entrance in front of a steel door with a panel that appears as if it came off of an old touch tone dial pad, Garbiel's hand hovers over the numbers and something in the twitch of his eyes has me milsing my gun once again,

"What a minute," I say. He turns, faces me. "If the numbers that you put into this door do anything other than open this fucker, I pierce you with five silver bullets, One for each part of your anatomy twiggles. Do you understand?" He swallows. That means your hands, feet, and dick. Comprende? Then I might oven say fuck it and pull the final two in your sac.*

I understand," C

My eyes

Gabriel hisses. "Now do you want to go in or not?"

rove over my brothers and each of them nods. Turning back to Gabriel, I lift my chin. "Open it."

This code opens every door in the building." He punches it in, one-sik-nine-six nine-zero-eight-three, and the door unlatches with a pop. Before Gabriel can step even a foot inside, I'm grabbing the back of his neck and tossing him toward Grant. "Hey What the fuck? Gabriel sputters.

"Keep him out here," I say Grant nods, flashing his fangs at Gabriel and throwing him back toward the mountain, Turning back to the door, I swing it open and step into the dark of a twenty foot long tunnel. "Follow me," I hiss.

As quietly as possible, the five of us creep into the cavern. My ears pick up the soft buzz of a generator and the electric whir of fluorescent lights. The murmuring chorus of feminine voices shades the space beyond the open entry just ahead of me. The bright white light of the room beyond illuminating the edge of the tunnel and casting part of the rock around us in a flicker of quivering shadow. I freeze as I catch her scent, Draven's. It falls over me like a warm bath. Calling to every part of my body and pulling me forward. But another scent foreshadows hers. An Alpha's scent. I can only assume it belongs to Benjamin and I have to swallow the growl that rises in my chest with the realization that he is where she is. As far as Thomas goes, I can't place him just yet.

Opening my eyes, I step into the light. The corridor is empty on both sides. A wall of cells lines the space to the right. Each one built into the rock, each with a single steel door. My heart rate hikes up as I realize Jason is in one of those rooms. I can hear him grunting and moaning as he no doubt assaults one of the Timber Wolf females. I know it's sick of me, I know it's disgusting, but I can't help but be a little grateful that he's occupied right now, My first concern is for Draven and that is the ugly, selfish truth. Once I have her safely outside, I concentrate on freeing the others.

Words are no good here. If we talk too soon, Jason or Thomas will most certainly hear us. So instead, I gesture with my gun for Logan and Quinn to head to the right. Mouthing the words, "You two are on Jason as I gesture for Paul to follow me down the hall to the left. Toward Draven and this soon-to-be-dead Alpha male.

Creeping toward the end of the hallway, there are four solid steel doors. Two on each side. I catch Thomas' scent on the left and Draven's on the right. One look at Paul tells me he's scented the same and he nods, taking a defensive stand to the left of Thomas' door. I face the dial pad in front of me, listening as best I can to the voices inside.

I can hear a man's voice. Alpha Benjamins, I assume. It cuts off suddenly and in that moment, I know he has heard my approach. So I

wiggle my finger posed above the dial pad. His footsteps are light, but I can hear them as he steps toward the door.

A voice sounds, "I'm going to open the door," it says. "Draven is unharmed. I am not your enemy.

I glance back at Paul who has his ear to Thomas's door listening "Snoring." Paul mouths.

Chapter One Hundred-Six

I turn back toward the door and as I hear a lock

thrusting out my arm in an open palm block, I knock the Timber Wolf Alpha back six feet. 149

"Dominic," Draven whispers.

The moment I lay eyes on her trembling form lying on the bed, rage explodes in my

Paul and close the distance between me and my mate within

"What did they do to you?" I hiss, grabbing her up in my arms and kiss her forehead

"Thank God you're here, she murmurs against my chest.

I stand up, glaring at Benjamin as I step toward the door.

"Wait!" he whispers. "The other girls"

I don't hear the rest of what he's saying, ignoring him as I maneuver out of the room and down the hall of my brothers following behind me stealthily as I carry Draven out of the cavern and into the night. To my surprise, stand at the bottom of the ravine and I lynch, wondering if she climbed down herself or if Bartlett carried her. Gear's grin breaking out across his face, while Gabriel whimpers on the ground behind him in obvious pain. I snicker, done something to piss Grant off.

Without breaking stride, I deposit Draven into Bartlett's waiting arms and turn back toward the compound's entrance.

"Wait! Draven's beautiful voice floats out.

"Baby," I simper, spinning back around to kiss her plump lips and savor the moment because that's all that we have. Well talk a gotten the other girls out," I con

Her emerald eyes sparkle in the moonlight as she says, "Benjamin too. He's not one of them."

ide.

I pause, my body tensing as I study her. Jealousy settling in

the pit o

of my stomach like a rock. "He's not helpless." I snap, jaw dented.

"Promise me," she says.

My eyes narrow, my mind tangling with dangerous thoughts. I want to stream No, fuck him who the hell does he think he is anyway What did he do to gain her sympathy? Pump her full of opiates?

I try to shake my anger off, but I just can't. "Why?" I growl, not able to keep the venom out of my voice. "Even if he's not one of them he's a failure of an Alpha."

And what are you? A little voice says inside my head. How many times did you put Draven in danger with just your stubbornness

Draven glares at me and I see the fire of her eyes ignite. "You don't understand. Just go and get him," she splas, tuming away from me. Fuck.

"Fine," 1 grumble, racing back inside angrily, my brethren right behind me.

The sound of Jason's grunting still fills the air, but it appears he's with a different female this time, in a different room. What a fucking pic

Now that we have Draven out, there's no need to be quiet anymore. I want to tear Jason apart piece by piece and I want to do it loudly. I turn to Paul, nod toward the gun still in his hand. "Get Thomas," I command.

He nods, stepping down the hallway with heavy steps and eyeing Benjamin as he comes out of his room, a large black duffel on his

2/3

13:01 Thu, Nov 14

Chapter One Hundred-Six

There's something you need to know about one of the girls, Benjaminys.

looking as I am. The fucker. I lute that he had his hands on my I glare at him, my jealousy burning in me as I realize hes almost as ger mate and I hate that she wants me to save him. So much But I have to pestrain myself from knocking him out cold. After, I snap. Turning to Logan and Quinn, I say, "According to Galileach of these cells has the same uniek cafe, Lo you remember 11?" The pair of them nod. "Let's get them out first." i glance at Honfund, "You fou. Get as many out as you can." "There are twenty," Benjamin says, "Two to a cell - ppt for Kim. Shpalla a commu and can't be moved easily,"

"Jason's work?" Logan asks, repulsed

Benjamin nods. "Always. He gives new meaning to the word animal."

luz from. "Go to Kim. We'll decide

"Son-of-a-bitch," I spit between clenched teeth, my eyes locking on the cell that Jason's noises are coming from. "How to get her out after I deal with Jason."

Heavy footsteps sound from down the hall and my eyes lift toward Thomas, Paul lends him out at gunpoint. When our eyes meet, I'm unable to keep my fangs from spearing, I know I told everyone the kill was to be Rainier's, but at this moment - as I look into his dark, soulless eyes I simply want him dead.

He chuckles, his eyes twinkling with madness. "Go ahead. Do me a favor I should have died with my mate long ago."

I clamp my mouth shut, fighting it as my body shakes with the urge to go. I'm about to do it. About to give him the peace he seeks,

hark.. When a sinister voice sounds at my

"I was wondering when you would get here, Dominic."

Chapter Comments

KKN

I love draven so much

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13

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[1,226 words]

3/3

The Pack: Rule Number 1 - No Mates

Chapter One Hundred-Seven

DOMONIC

I know w

who it is before I turn around. My body tenses, the slight shift of Jason's feet triggering my body into action. I spin and leap toward him, catching a flash of his fangs as they shift out. In my peripheral, I see Logan and Quinn flanked by more than a dozen girls, scrambling out of the way as I crash into Jason and the pair of us go tumbling into the rock wall. Now he is all I can see.

He smirks at me as my hands close around his throat and his muscles well with change.

"You die tonight," I hiss, my body quaking as the pair of us shift in a cacophony of growls and ripped clothing,

I know my brothers are there. Watching. Waiting for any moment that might appear to be losing the fight. Because whether I can beat him or not doesn't matter. All I need from him is for him to be dead. The way or how that it's accomplished doesn't matter. A pack of wolves is what they are. A pack. And should I show the slightest tremble, my brothers will pounce on Jason like piranhas in the Amazon. There will be nothing left. He has raped for the last time.

The knowledge of this boosts my confidence and we twirl together in deadly dance. Our snapping jaws and snarling fangs echo deep in the cavern, filling my ears with nothing but, I rip at his belly, my claws tearing through flesh, blood warming my paws. To my surprise, it doesn't deter him. He winds around me, attempting to get a grip on my neck with his teeth. But I'm bigger than he is and buck him off, flipping his body as I kick him out the doorway and into the night.

He's injured, I can see this as I stalk through the tunnel toward him. My mind is barely aware that Logan and Quinn have shifted to take a protective stance in front of Bartlett and Draven. Jason snarls at my approach, leaping onto his feet despite the fact that he is pouring his shifter blood all over the desert rock

We circle each other slowly, him using the time to heal and me using the time to let him. I don't mind toying with him a bit before death." I hope for him to carry the memory of this night into his afterlife. A slight bend of his hindleg warns me he is about to pounce and I attack, shifting my movement as I snap my jaws closed in the space I believe he will be. My fangs rip into flesh, tasting the copper of his Blood and savoring its flavor as I whip my head back to rip a chunk of his neck from his body. But he's still moving and his legs shoot out, scraping across my stomach as he flies past me and back into the cave, slamming the door closed behind him. Momentarily stunned by the pain that blossoms in my mid-section, I'm not quite fast enough to shift back before he can slide the latch closed on the other side. Which is exactly what he does.

of frustration rumbles past my throat as I change. Coming back into myself bleeding and angry.

Clutching my abdomen, I am already healing, so I ignore the startled cries of Draven in Bartlett's arms and focus on the door, punching in the code only for it to deny me entrance and remain locked

"Fuck!" I shout, my head swiveling to lock eyes with Thomas. "Is there another way in?"

Thomas shakes his head with a smirk. "No."

"Gabriel?" I snap, charging toward him, my eyes lit. "Is there another way?"

He swallows thickly, scrambling onto his feet before I can yank him off the ground. "Not that I'm aware of. He's the one who found this place. I don't know how long he's had it." He sighs, "If there is another way, I wouldn't put it past him to have kept it secret." I'm trembling with rage as I glare back at the door to the compound. My mind is spinning, my anger so great that I'm finding trouble. collecting my thoughts. The adrenaline of the fight coupled with the loss of my prey fucking up my thought processes. "You're bleeding!" Logan shouts in my face. "We all made it out. We should get the girls to safety and then return another day. We should go home!"

"We're not all out! Draven snaps. "Benjamin's still in there!"

1/2

Chapter One Hundred-Seven

Fuck. That's right. Suddenly there's no time to waste. I race toward the door, pounding on the damn thing with a vengeance. The surface of the metal begins to dent, whining and bending with the force of my staff. "Benjamin!" I scream, willing him to hear me. If there's no other way out, I may still be able to catch Jason. "Benjamin!" I shout again.

Then I hear it, the slide of the lock before the door swings open and Benjamin falls to the ground. He is bleeding from a gash at his neck, his life's blood raging over the ground like water over the dam.

He gurgles at my feet, "He killed her," he says, his eyelids fluttering. "Kim is gone." "Help him!"

"Help him!" I shout toward Cadence and to my amazement, she races forward at near Shifter speed. Juh... go figure.

Turning back around, I shift, Logan, Paul, and Quinn right behind me. The four of us race into the cavern, our noses to the ground. We follow the trail of Jason's blood to

where it ends in front of a locked metal door. His door. Shifting back, I scream again as I realize the lock is slid closed and we can't get in.

"If he's locked in there, we'll get him," Quinn chuckles, grabbing the handle to try and force it open. Metal squeals as the handle loosens, but the latch on the other side remains firmly intact. The four of us might be able to rip it off its hinges!" Logan says.

Paul nods, "I noticed some tools in Thomas room. I'll go see what might be useful."

"Be quick," I say, putting my ear to the d

door as I concentrate on picking up Jason's breathing on the other side.

Nothing. Nada. An empty tomb. But I refuse to leave until I'm sure. "Hurry!" I shout.

eyes sparkling, a long metal crowbar in his hands. This should do it."

Paul returns, ey

I grace him with a savage smile before taking the damn thing and wedging it between door and frame. It takes the four of us exactly two tries to pry the damn thing off the wall. Setting it aside, we enter his room slowly, each of us growling when we see the space is empty. An open door on the left side of the room beckons me and I charge into what appears to be a bathroom. A breeze floats past, the putrid scent of feces turning my stomach as my nose curls up in disgust.

Stepping past the shower, I see the source of the stench and fury boils my blood. The toilet has been ripped out and thrown aside but that's not what has me pounding the wall.

Nope. It is the gaping hole left beneath it that leads straight into the ground that has me curling my fists in rage.

Son-of-a-bitch."

Chapter Comments

12

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[1,530 words]

13:01 Thu, Nov. 1!

The Pack: Rule Number 1 -No Mates Chapter One Hundred-Eight DRAVEN

Kneeling on the ground while the blond female Domonic called Cadence stitched Benjamin's throat, my body is finally gaining back its mobility. I can't help but think this girl might use a bit more of hers as Benjamin continues to spout blood from his neck. "Faster!" I snap, grumbling my irritation. He's losing so much blood::

Benjamin smiles up at me weakly, his mouth falling open as if to speak Cadence stops him. "Don't you dare?" she warns, tying off the last of her stitches. She lifts her bright blue eyes my way. He's an Alpha. He will heal."

My brow furrows as I glare at her. This bitch, I don't like the way she's looking at me. Does she think I didn't notice the way she was watching Domonic when he was standing out here naked? Well, I did. And if I wasn't feeling so feeble at the time, I would've said something

mirks at me as if she knows what I am thinking then stands just as four completely nude shifters come stalking out of the compound and back toward us. Jesus! There has to be a solution for this! They can't just run around naked half the time! "Tason?" Bartlett asks as they come waltzing in our direction.

"Cone," Domonic says softly, his eyes going straight to me.

But Leant meet his gaze, no, I can't. Why? Because in my current position I am eye-level with four of the biggest dicks I have ever laid gyfs on. I mean... Holy Mother.....

"Close your eyes, baby," Domonic commands, reaching down to lift me into his arms. His tone is amused, but I can see it in his eyes that he's pissed. He totally caught me checking them out.

My face heats and I tilt my head upward to place a soft kiss against his lips. "I knew you would come," I whisper.

coos, resting his head against mine for a long moment. "And you fuckers get dressed!"

Unlike Domonic, the others took the time to get undressed before shifting so they still had something to wear. I don't know that I'll ever get used to seeing their wolves, they are just so big. But... they are also incredibly beautiful. "I can walk now," I say, wiggling my legs to make my point.

What i

if I don't want you to?" he says. "I might just want to hold you forever."

I pure my lips, my eyes wandering over the large group of females around us. "Put me down. There's something I need to do before I go crazy."

His steely gray eyes sparkle with curiosity, but he does as I say. The moment my feet hit the ground, I walk toward Paul. "Gimme," I command before he can pull his jeans on.

Paul chuckles, "What?"

"Give rue your jeans. You've got gym shorts underneath. You wear those and Domonic wears your jeans."

Paul's eyes light with mischief. "What do I get in return?"

Paul," Domonic snaps in warning

„Domonic, Lice the mountain 1 shout over my shoulder, holding my hand out for the pants and glaring at each of the females pointedly.

1/3

Chapter One Hundred-Eight

Every one of them, with exception of Cadence, averts her eyes, gazes calling down toward the ground. The women look bedraggled. Some of them are even wearing scrubs. They're the victims here, most certainly, but they look a little too intrigued. The fact that they've been traumatized does not warrant them a free pass to stare at Domonic's perfect body. That body is mine and I will fuck someone up before i let that happen

Domonic's dark chuckle fills the space behind me as Paul hands me his jeans. Thank you," I say sweetly.

I can't help but laugh as I walk back up to Domonic and toss him the pants. Cadence is still staring at him. I mean sure, she can't see his dick anymore, but I don't think she realizes, his ass is mine too.

"Hey," I say to her, crossing my arms over my chest. "Eyes up here."

She sports, "Excuse me?"

You heard what I said," I snap, my anger getting the better of me. Maybe it's the drugs burning off in my system, maybe it's not. I don't know and I don't care, but one thing is for certain. I already don't like this bitch.

Cadence rolls her eyes, turning around to face the others. That's better.

"Okay guys," Quinn says, walking past Cadence with a wink. "We are presented with a new problem."

"What's that?" Domonic says turning around once he has the pants on His magnificent chest is still on full display, but I guess I'll have to live with it for now.

How the fuck are we getting out of here?" Quinn asks.

DOMONIC

Tive miles from the compound and farther into the canyon, the group of us finally come across the three black Suburbans Gabriel said would be waiting. Surreptitiously parked along an unmarked dirt road that appears to lead up the side of a mountain. One for him, one for Thomas, and one for Jason. The fact that there wasn't one for Benjamin only gave credibility to the annoying Alpha's claim of innocence. Apparently the three hadn't considered him their equal

"Where are the keys?" I grumble, my eyes on Gabriel.

"Inside," he says quietly, his eyes on the dark of the landscape at our backs.

I lean toward him. "Don't even think about it. We're not done with you yet."

"You said once you had her that I could leave!" he hisses angrily.

I smirk. "What's the rush Gabe? Wouldn't you rather be a little closer to civilization when we send you on your way?"

"I'd rather take my chances with the desert while I still have all my parts."

Quinn laughs. "Relax, Gaby baby. So long as you do everything you te tald from here on out, you'll be alright. He winks. "We'll let your pecker."

"Seven to a car," I state. "That's twenty-one seats. Twenty-six if we pack them to the brim. There are thirty of us," I growl.

you k

Grant shrugs, eyeing the vehicles. "We only need to make it to the top of the mountain before I can call Jaimie and he can fly back out. He said he'd be waiting at Pulliam Airport, fueling up."

I nod, whispering. "Good: We can have him take Draven back to Crown Mountain. I want her out of harm's way as soon as possible."

2/3

13:02 Thu, Nov 14:4

Chapter One Hundred-Eight

I feel her eyes burning into my back before I can even turn around. Dam, she heard me. I keep forgetting that her senses are stronger. while she's carrying my pup.

"No the fuck you don't," she snaps, shoving me from behind as she walls up. She glares up at me, her beautiful green eyes sparkling with heat and her deliciously curved chest heaving with anger. My dick twitches and I have to work to keep from smiling at her. She's so fucking sexy when she's mad. I'm not leaving you."

I sigh, reaching out to pull her against my chest. "Baby, I just want you to be safe. You... and the baby."

Her arms wind around my neck and I feel her lips at the base of my throat as she whispers, "I'm safest with you. When are you ever to understand that?"

I swallow the lump in my throat as my heart clenches. Maybe she's right. Maybe she is safest with me. It does seem like every time I push her away in hopes of protecting her, something terrible happens.

Paul clears his throat, stepping into our bubble and causing a growl to rise up from my chest. "Maybe we should leave Benjamin's cars, Dom. Let him and his females drive them back to his packlands." He leans in. "We leave Thomas and Gabriel to their fates and the rest of us fly home with Jaimie." "And leave Jason unpunished?" I growl. "No fucking way. I want to kill that bastard."

"I understand your anger," Benjamin says, cutting in. "I want to see him dead too. But the ladies have to come first. If we can get everyone to Timber, we can wait for him there."

My brow furrows. "He escaped into the sewers," I complain. "We have no idea how many tunnels are down there and no way of which direction he ran. What makes you think he'll be heading to Timber?"

He smiles, "If there's one thing I've learned about Janson-its that he hates to lose. He will want revenge for this." He swallows, his eyes leathery across the back of Deaven's head in a way that has me tensing with anger. If he decides to come for anyone.

Draven lifts her head from my chest to stare deep into my eyes. Damncher. I don't think she has any idea how powerful those gems are She says, "He's going to need some help with these women. I want to help him. I owe him that much. Let's do it. Let's go to Timber: "You don't owe him a goddamned thing." I hiss.

She raises a hand to my face to trace my lips with her fingers, her eyes Bling with tears. "But I do owe him she whimpers and so do

"For what?" I growl.

"Because" she pauses to glance at Benjamin "he saved our baby."

My stomach tightens Shir

Chapter Comments

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

[1,161 words]

3/3

The Pack: Rule Number 1 - No Mates Chapter One Hundred-Nine DRAVEN

After another hour of arguing, Domonic finally decided the travel arrangements as the blaze of dawn skeeted over the mountainside. Benjamin would lead the caravan, driving one car, with eleven of his females stuffed in every spare crevice of the vehicle. Cadence would drive the next car, with me as her passenger yuck - and the eight remaining Timber females taking up the backseats. Finally, Domonic would drive the final car, with Paul next to him in front, Bart, Quinn, Logan, and Grant in back keeping watch over Thomas and Gabriel on the floor of the vehicle. It wasn't as difficult as we originally thought it to be. Mostly because with Timber females being so skinny, it was easy to fit more of them into the seats. They obviously weren't fed much during their time in captivity and as sick as it may sound, I was glad for it.

Now if only I didn't have to spend the entire fifteen hour trip to Timber sitting next to a bitch that obviously has the hots for my man, I might even enjoy this little ride.

Unfortunately, every chance she gets, she asks about him. How did we meet? How long have we been together? Bild 1 force him to mark me?

Fucking cunt. If I weren't pregnant, I swear to God. I'd be her to the back of the car and help her find her legs.

It's been four hours now and most of the girl in the back are doring, the red gold hues of the Arizona desert are thually fading into the backdrop and the yellow hills of the Nenada landscape Joom up ahead.

Why hadn't be accepted you as his mate yet? Cadence quips

dime thats why be marked me," I say without turning Mot. She's

ally becoming quite boring.

mars. "I understand that part. I mean - you're

I mean you're his property after all. That much

Property? I whisper, i

its not suite that gast

"When an Alpha accepti

me to cause any more death song in my head.

As for me to r

erin in the passenger

of the car behind us. 1

taking place in our car. Who knows? Maybe be

My heating has been crazy good lately, but

interwise it's useffield. It's weird, really. It's almost like he did it

entioned introducing to his son. He

seemed to think we'd make a strong match."

imitated gaze away frimm

-kooping toen

sdow to study her. That's before Alum met me, you dumb bitch. I

dbe held be saying "What?"

"Domonic neech to accept his mate in front of the pack. Belize witnesses. It is the way of things. She smiles, her plain blond hair shining alde. "Why hasn t be made you Luna, yet?" She inquires slyty.

oral as the t. She's really trying to in my head. She's no Marga least that slut was clear about what

Perhaps.

biolutely certum wi

and never wanted

bullshit I've put bed het with only push bet to annoy more prood that Donor watts me, let her go after it

Zana'nen is. Not that I'm going to tell her that. "I don't know. Maytar her i

Maybe heather have sottone like you instead." I smirk, knowing further. But for some reasg, I can't help myself. Let a fool be a tool. If she

shift locus and 1 kr

without a doubt that

staring at Domonic's reflection in her minor "A Alpha like that. Deservei a Luna that knows how a pack is supposed to be run, A Luna of ho people."

1/3

13:02 Thu, Nov 14 ©

Chapter One Hundred-Nine

I grin. "You mean, a Shitless Lea? I poke, using the term Benjamin täht me to describe females born of shitter blood.

It does the job. She scowls. "I mean someone who knows what it means be a shitter. Not some human girl that can't even keep herself

"She's his fated mate!" A soft voice says from the back. "And you should be ashamed of yourself."

My eyes fix toward the rear-view mirror to meet the wide brown gaze of the Timber female seated in the trunk. Her face is softly rounded, her lips a perfect heart. She's really pretty and very young. I send her a grateful smile which she returns with a slight bow of her head. "No one asked you," Cadence snaps

I roll my eyes at her, turning my attention

to the mirror and the girl in the trunk. "What's your name?" I ask.

She sighs, her

"How old are you Brenda?"

feebly shoulders shifting as she turns her body to face the front. "Brenda," she

chuckles. "Seventeen"

My eyes flare, Jesus. Her shirt is ripped, practically hanging from her back assaulting. I suddenly find myself daydreaming about different ways

to know without asking that she is one of the girls Jason was

disturbed by.

Reading my mind, she shakes her head. "He didn't. He was about to, but that's when he saw your mate in the hall and he left the room. Her eyes fall on the blond Shiftless napping on the seat behind Cadence. She jerks her chin upward, "Isobel wasn't so lucky." I glance over my shoulder

toward the sleeping

girl. She's covered in bruises and her long yellow dress

is missing a sleeve.

She looks tired and unwell

I close my eyes, willing the memories of

the night then I vow to help these girls as much as possible before I leave. Most of them are probably

Benjamin, his pack is predominantly male. I doubt there will be anyone there that will be semite to the type of healing these women are going to need. If I can? I will try and be that person. After all... I lived through year of abuse before meeting Domonic. If anyone knows what is like to feel helpless, I da..

"What's it like in Timber? L gating back out

writidonc. Please tel me it's not in the desert

She laughs, a tinkling harmonious sound that makes

Shasta Lots of trees and lakes. But no desert."

No delett. Timber is high in the Cascade Mountains. Close to Mount

Thank God," I chirp "II. I never see another desert for as long as I Inver

She snorti. Tell me about it." She adds thoughtfully, "What is your

Red Wolf Village, right?

row furrows. I don't know how to answer that. Until just yesterday, I would have said yes, Red Wolf Village is my home. But after all that's happened, I don't know if i can call it that. I don't even know if I want to

An image of spiral lou and a beach drenched in fog filh my vision. A longing for Port Orchard thrumming to life in my chest with so much urgency I nearly tear up. "Actually," I say, gazing into

nirror once again to see Paul is still watching me, "Red Wolf is her home," Cadence scowl. Tve only been visiting"

And that's when 1 devide

not going to let. Dumonic leave me in Red Wolf a want to be a member of that tow anymore. I want to go back to Port Orchard Back to his house on the top of the hik want to take Adam and the rest of the council

with me when I do.

2/3

The Pack: Rule Number 1 - No Mates

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

[1,748 words]

Chapter One Hundred-Ten DOMONIC

We arrived in Timber just after sunset. I can't help but grin when I realize I'm going to get to see Michael again. Not only that but I get to reintroduce him to his missing Alpha, Oh yeah. This might be more fun than I thought it is going to be, Benjamin leads us

us past a crumbling brick wall with the word 'timber hanging askew over the entrance. The T is missing entirely.

"At least they have electricity, Paul comments as we drive along a dirt path behind the others. "What's it like here Gabriel? Is there a packhouse?"

Two. One for the ladies and one for the men, Gabriel's states in a bored voice. The families take up the tiny cottages on the left."

Glancing out the window, I take it in. There are about twelve tiny little cabins that dot the landscape. Each and every one of them is in different states of disrepair. "Has it always been this bad?"

Gabriel snorts. "Actually, no. When I first started coming here it was a cute little village complete with Town Square. But Michael must be having a hell of a time running things because that's the marketplace right over there."

My gaze follows the direction of his eyes to land on a building across the street that's missing a door and a rooftop. "Shit, I complain. I sigh, turning left to follow Cadence and Benjamin who are heading toward the end of the block and a couple of large two story cabins. I meet Paul's eyes. "You know what this means don't you?"

He chuckles, "Yup."

"Draven's going to make us rebuild this whole goddamned place."

"Yup."

"Fuck," Quinn hisses. "I hope the rooms are clean at least."

"If they're not?" Logan grumbles. "I'll sleep out here in the car."

I laugh, "Yeaah right. We'll see if she lets you get away with that."

Grant clears his throat, his voice booming out from the back of the Suburban. "When were you going to tell us about her carrying your baby?"

The way he asks this has me tensing. He sounds disappointed... betrayed. I sigh. "I know what you're thinking. First I break one rule and then I break another, but

He chortles, his bark of laughter sharp and incredulous. "You've got to be kidding! You think I'm angry about that? About our outdated, stupid, pointless rules? I can't believe you," "What then? Huh?" I snap. "What's the problem?"

I catch his glare in the rearview mirror. "The problem is, we deserved to know! And you are our Alpha our brother! seethes-"You kept le a fucking secret from us and sent her packing."

But you?"-he

My hands tighten over the steering wheel as Thomas begins to giggle from the floorboard of the car. Ignoring Thomas, I pull the Suburban in front of the cabin Benjamin and Cadence have just parked next to. I shut off the vehicle and turn around to face my brothers. I didn't know she was pregnant when she left. I only just found out."

Grant snorts, "Right. Sure. Whatever you say. His jaw clenches, his dark eyes taking on a challenging light. "So now that you do know. Are

1/4

Chapter One Hundred-Ten

you still going to keep her away from us? Do you still think she's safer somewhere else?"

No, I don't. But I still haven't figured out what I'm going to do yet, so I don't answer.

Quinn nods, "Okay guys. We're here. Save this chat for later, yeah? For when we're all here?"

"Agreed," Bartlett says softly, but I already know what his vote will be. Epecially after all that's happened.

Bartlett is wearing his guilt like a badge of shame. His eyes are perpetually misted and his normally easy smile cracks into a frown every time I look his way. He blames himself for sending Draven to Red Wolf and honestly, I kind of blame him too. But at the same time, I understand why he did it. He thought she would be safer there. He knee I would regret sending her away and he put her where I could easily find her. It was stupid of me to think that Draven would just hop on a plane and head back to Miami just because I told her to. He understood how angry she would be, even when I didn't. He knew that he didn't present her with an alternative I might never find her

again.

I ought to find the time to thank him for that, and I will, but not until I know hell bear me.

Thunder roars overhead, lightning flashing somewhere in the distance.

I turn toward Paul. "Keep the gun trained on these two until I find out where we're going to lock them up for the night, "Everyone else follows me."

"Lets get this show on the road fellas," Logan chimes. "God I hope their roof doesn't leak."

I chuckle, stepping out of the car just as it

it starts to rain. I stare at Drawn and Cadence, shaking my head as I gesture for them to stay in the vehicle until I find out what is going on. They don't see me, the two of them are bickering and I have to tap on the glass to get their attention.

"Stay in the car," I say softly. They nod.

The porchlight to the cabin turns on as I walk up the steps and the person who steps out of the door is not happy to see me.

Perfect

Michael.

At first sight of us standing there, Michael begins to panic. "What do you want? We left just like you said. What are you doing here?"

I step toward him, shirtless and grinning."

"Come on out, I won't bite. I brought you a gift, Mikey. Felt kind of bad for roughing you up back in Red Woll, so I thought I'd make it up to you. You are the Alpha after all, aren't you?"

He swallows thickly stepping outside slowly, his eyes glued to me and my brothers as he fairly wets his pants on the porch. I keep my eyes trained on him as Benjamin slowly gets out of his vehicle to approach Michael from behind. "Right, Michael squeaks feebly.

"Wrong," Benjamin's voice booms out and Michael's face pales at the sound.

"Alpha Benjamin?!" He exclaims, spinning around and hitting his knees. Thank God! We thought you were dead!"

"I can see that," Benjamin hisses. "But what the fuck did you think you were doing playing Alpha? Where's Steven?"

Oh shit. In all the excitement, I guess nobody thought to tell him about his Beta.

Michael begins to cry and I swear to God I have to force myself not to lick the little idiot into the dirt. "Tell him what happened to his Beta, I snap.

Benjamin's gaze locks on me, his eyes questioning, "What? What happened?"

2/4

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Chapter One Hundred-Ten

Im s-so sorry, Alpha. But Beta Steven is dead. We found him near the rain tracks. His woll.. somebody bumed him."

Oh, domn / hadn't known that part, I mean, I know he had been burned, but I thought he was human when it happened. Now I have to wonder if the murder took place on the night of a full moon, because it dal? Then it wasn't Gabriel or Jason. It was someone else. But who?

"His wolf?" Benjamin whispers, his eyes flying toward my car. "Get Gabriel out here. Get him out here now."

"Sure thing." I say sympathetically. "Do you have a dungeon? Or a lock-up? Because we're going to need to stow the pair of them somewhere that they can't get free."

Benjamin curses, No. But we have a cellar."

I nod, That I have to do I guess."

"Michael!" Benjamin shouts, glancing around as a few males begin to tumble outside Where is everyone? Where are the families? Where are the guards?"

Michael crumbles, sobbing at Benjamin's feet and for the first time I begin to feel sorry wolf he has under his command, he doesn't have anything worth saving this Alpha, because if Michael is the type of

Where are they Michael? Benjamin snaps angrily, sipping the lowly Omega pretender from the ground, "What the fuck has happened bere?"

They're gone!" He cries. "When Steven was found dead, most of them deserted. The families, the Gammas, everyone. All that's left bere are the few of us who weren't strong enough to leave."

"How many of you are left?" Benjamin asks, dropping Michael back down on his knees.

Twenty of us. That's all."

"Jesus C

Christ," Quinn grumbles. "What a fucki

a fucking circus,"

Id rather have a small pack of twelve soldiers than a village of idiots, Grant heckles.

I chuckle because I'd have to agree. "Yeah," I say. "No shit."

Suddenly as I watch them, an idea begins to take shape in my head. But I will not voice it until I have all of my brothers present. Because in the end, it will come down to a vote.

s on the first ring.

"Logan, toss me your phone. He does and the moment I catch it, I dial Koda. He answers on

His voice comes out strained and angry. "Where the fuck are you guys?"

My eyes jerk toward Draven as I step out of earshot. The tone of Roda's voice telling me something else has happened. "What's wrong? Tell me that you've found Emily."

He goes quiet and the slow draw of his breath chills me to the bone. "I did," he says softly. "Do you have Draven?"

"I do" I say, "What is it, Koda?"

What's

Wrong!

Do you have Jason?"

My eyes narrow and I spin around just as the pitter patter of dainty little feet come waltzing up behind me in the rain. "Draven! I told you

to wait in the car."

Hundred-Ten

"What is it?" She whimpers. Is That Koda?"

I nod, gritting my teeth. "Get back in the car baby. Please."

She shakes her head, tears filling her eyes. "I want to talk to Emily."

"I asked you a question, Dom. Do you have Jason?"

I sigh, "No. He got away."

"Fuck!" Koda screams and I swear the shrill fury in his voice shakes the phone in my hand.

My brothers, Benjamin, and Michael all of the wolves on the porch all turn their heads in my direction.

"Koda," I hiss. "You better fucken tell me

e what's come

going on. What is it? What is wrong?"

"Emily's in a coma," he says and I hear Draven choke back a sob.

"What the fuck?" I snap. "How?"

"Jason!" he screams. The unmistakable sound of something shattering against the wall on the other end of the line fills my ears before Roda lets loose with an animalistic rear. "He marked her, Domonic. He bit my mate. He bit Emily." Oh... my... God.

Chapter Comments

KKN

OH MY GODOBNOOO EMILY

Visitor

It's getting more exciting as each chapter is revealed

[VIEW ALL 6 COMMENTS](#)

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

[1,305 words]

4/4

The Pack Pole thumber 1 No Mates

Chapter One Hundred-Eleven

помени

a soud meadow The n

and calorem, the permenizar el viclaque hiding venomers in the

and set up a parimater many faves the tel

trying to heed wit

Are you handle this? lack, and then is gered and waiting

parked

Paul, Grand, Fregat, and Quinn

be decide to shew up. The rest of

inber Wolf Park and awat lason, should Kainier and Benjamin e

Emily

"Of course. There are four of us and one of him. If he shows, we'll get him?"

In my best friend in a hug as I whisper, "We'll be back

The 've got this

Make sure fennafes are ded to Dreven warns him. Ferially ends. Let her know 111 be back

Is that right?" Paul taunts

"That's right," she snaps, masing her arms or her voluptuous chest.

I know were in a hurry to get to Emily and I know that Koda in coudning on us to bring help, but all I really want to do right at moment is find a spot deep in the woods to worship tray mata in. A patch of grass, a lake, a pond, anywhere that grants us some privacy. wand to devide an entire night just to having her naked and trembling in my arms. The way I should have done from the beginning. My tangs are aching with wont of

her. The need to claim her again and again becoming the single most important thought in my head. I wan her safely tucked against me for the rest of my life and I'm dying to get her alone so I can tell her sou

"Let's get out of here," I say, taking Thrawn's hand and pulling her toward the helicopter.

Once inside I see that Bartlett is seated next to Thomas in the back, probably to keep him from jumping out to try and kill himself His eyes have become more and more panicked with every passing hour. He's afraid. As he should be. He doesn't want to face his son. But if really wants is death, he needn't be afraid. He will find it... and soon. Because if they don't give it to him, I will

The, my father, and the rest of the council were supposed to be a team. Fortified by a common thread. Much like my brothers and I are. But be betteyed them when he betrayed me and I cannot see any way past it. In fact, each time I look at him I have to remind myself that he's Rainiers father. It is all I can do to keep from ripping his head from his neck like a rabid dog

The slight to Red Wolf is quick and before I know it were landing back in the courtyard and I'm turning to Jaimie with appreciative eyes.

"When we get back to Port Orchard," I say, "You name it, and it's yours."

the feast I can do," the human firefighter says. "Grant has saved my life more times than I can count."

We wave him off just as the peal of tires rounds the bend into the courtyard and eleven vehicles roll up. The council.

DRAVEN

m the first one inside of the infirmary when we get there and the first thing I see is the back of Kody's head as he paces back and forth in

1/3

Chapter One Hundred Eleven

win from fading friend

Cade fer funds that woman, nap, vinger feathers bind me and the moment I see y I whimper her name undra

At the sound of my Rate frees in his steps Tect and the sight of his nearly rings to my k

I'm here," I say

"Where x Domonic?" he vasp.

Helping the others secure Thomas. Hell

He nods, stepping aside to that I can finally see

Ch my God, Emily.

y Birot real look unt

tinged with gray and

A sob locks into my throat as my eyes graze over her emaciated form. Her normally golde sunken in, her lips blue. The only splash of code ember at all are the crescent shaped bite mas i along her collarbone and they are ugly, putrid green with little black veins that word out around them. Poison in her Hood. Her chest is barely moving, the only 1 is bewathing coming from the wheeze of her lungs. She looks... dead

"At first, she was hot. Baking with fever, but now..." Kods whispers, "She's so cold

1

I'm trying to be strong, I really am, but it's too much. Tears fall at a rapid rate from my eyes and try as I might I cannot stop the know how I manage to keep myself from screaming, but I do. The moment I step forward and take one of her hands in mine, I Seed pulsing in her limbs. Like a vibration in her blood and I know right away that is the venom eating her alive. She is my friend Mine! is loyal and sweet and doesnt deserve to be lying here dying. Somewhere in my brain, a memory nags at me. Like a whisper from beyond, a voice that begs me to see the truth. Telling me to see the cure that is standing right in front of me Insisting that there is one way to save her. One way for her to houl. It's then that I remember the night that Domonic marked me and how every little inju had disappeared by morning. 1 turn toward Koda, "You have to mark her and you have to do it now."

His jaw clenches, his eyebrows furrowing. "I can't do that! It will kill her. He turns to Benjamin. "Won't it?"

Benjamin sighs, stepping into the room with sad eyes. "To be honest, I don't know." He meets my eyes. "But it can't hurt to try. She's already dying

I whimper, "She in?" I hadn't wanted to believe that, even though I knew it was true. I'm not sure what I expected Benjamin to be able to do for her, but I had hoped it would be something!

"No!" Koda snaps, shoving him. "No she is not!!" He says again. "She can't." He leans down, kisses Emily's face then whispers, I haven even had the chance to love you yet.

You will not die on me." His eyes find mine. Tell me why you think I should mark her," he whispers. "What makes you think that will work? How can my venom help fight venom?"

"I don't know," I say softly. "It's just something I feel" I smile, trying as best I can to encourage him. "You are her mate. You have to try."

He glares, "Promise me that it won't kill h

her and I'll do it."

I tense, closing my eyes for a brief moment as I struggle to say the words that might be a lie, "I promise."

2/3

13:02 Thu Nov 14 K

Chapter One Hundred-Eleven

He tears up, his throat quaking as he snarls, "Command me. As my la you can make me do it."

I pause, my eyes going wide as I attempt to understand exactly what his asking of me. "1"

"Tim sorry. But I just can't let it be my fault. Please," he hisses. "Command me to do it."

My jaw clenches as fresh tears pool behind my eyes. I don't how it is that I find the words, but I do. I nod and say, "As your Luna, I command you. Mark her."

He nods with relief, his langs spearing out as he muzzles into her shoulder. He whispers, "I'm so sorry, love, I should have been there for you." His fangs trace over the black veins of her skin and my heart begins to pump wildly in my chest.

If this doesn't work - if this doesn't heal her - it will kill her. I will have killed her. It will be on me.

Koda's eyes fall closed. "Come back to me, please," he begs, then he sink his fangs into the side of her neck.

Chapter Comments

KKN

great novel, look forward to read each chapter.

Marietta Gary

Oh damn, full on sobbing now.

POST COMMENT

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12

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

[1,597 words]

3/3

The Pack: Rule Number 1 - No Mates

Chapter One Hundred-Twelve DOMONIC

Rainier, Lief, and I are gathered in front in the parking lot of the Town Hall. Bartlett, James, Andrew, and Timmons have all gone to Draven's house to get some much needed rest. I would like us to be on our way to Timber tomorrow, but as things are right now, I don't think that's going to happen. "So what do you want to do?" I ask Rainier from the front seat of my Hunter.

Rainier shakes his head, his dark eyes going flat. He refused to escort Thomas into the dungeon. Refused to even look at the man. The council had to step in and take charge. "They can do whatever they want with that bastard. I have nothing to say to him." His gaze lifts to mine. "Unless, you want the kill. I'd be happy to relinquish it,"

I shake my head, studying the barely concealed rage behind his eyes. I do want the kill. Of course I do. But there's too much of a chance that Rainier will hate me for it if I do it. No... the kill has to be his. "I can't kill your father Rainier. I want to, you better believe I do. But you're my brother. I won't do that to you if you can't do it yourself."

His eyes twinkle with something like relief. He wants to die, anyway. He has for a long time. "I'll be damned if I grant him peace after everything he's done.."

With a heavy sigh, I nod my head in retreat. I should ask Draven what she thinks. Maybe her decision is the only one that trilly matters. She is the one he kidnapped after all. Even if he didn't really hurt her. And... something tells me she might have some insight that we don't have. Maybe she'll have a better suggestion as to what should be

done with him. "Emily's dying." Rainier says. "Koda hasn't left her side since we found her."

My hands clamp tight around my steering wheel at that news, Jesus Christ. I can only imagine what Koda is feeling right now. The image of Draven-weak and immobile - back in that cave, flashes before my eyes and I send up a prayer of thanks that she was unharmed. I was lucky to have reached her in time. Not only yesterday, but when Leo had her on that boat as well. The thought of Koda losing Emily before, he's even accepted her as his mate burns into my chest. Guilt slamming into me from all sides.

This is my fault. All of it. If I had listened to my brother when I first found Draven and simply changed the rules and accepted her... this might not be happening right now. All my stupid attempts to keep her safe have ended with her in danger. Now is the time for all that to stop.

"How do you know she is dying?" I ask,

Rainier sallows thickly, simply shaking his head. "You'll have to see her for yourself. She's covered in black veins, Jason bit her numerous times. Like... he wanted to make sure we had to watch her die."

"And what are we going to do if she does die?" Lief interjects. "I don't think I want to know what Kods will be like if she does."

I grit my teeth, closing my eyes as I remember how angry he was with me when I sent Draven away. He wanted Emily. I could tell. Even though he refused to admit it, I could see he was only following my lead, despite that he didn't agree with me. "Let's get to the infirmary and see what we can do to help."

"Here," Rainier says, handing me

a small velvet box.

The ring Lasked him to retrieve for me from Port Orchard. I smile, "Thank you. I hope I get to use it."

It's still hanging on to that goddamned rule!"

"What?" Rainier snaps. "You hope? You fucken better use it. Please tell me you're not

I chuckle sadly, "No. I'm not But if Emily dies..."

1/4

Chapter One Hundred-Twelve

And he nods... because that's off there is to say.

DRAVEN

She screams.

The moment Koda's fangs sink into the soft flesh of Emily's neck, her idly rises from the bed and she walls. The sound is haunting. A screech of pain so bone deep it's as if her soul is mourning the death of her body and I drop to my knees in fear. Her eyes fly open, bulging out of their sockets as she wilts and shudders beneath Koda grip. To my surprise, he doesn't let her go. Instead, he bites her again and again, and she screams, again and again.

I quiver on the ground as I watch her struggle against him. She's fighting him, clawing him, trying to wrench herself free. Swallowing the rock lodged in my throat I struggle to my feet to gaze down into her eyes. They're dark, bloodshot and unseeing. Like the eyes of a vampire or a zombie.

Oh God! Have I made a mistake?

"Emily," I whisper, as Benjamin rushes to my side, shoving me away so that he can get a look at her.

"That's enough!" Benjamin shouts and Koda releases her neck to peer into her eyes.

She whimpers, her eyes shifting to Koda's. For a moment, I see something there. Longing and love and a sadness so devastating that I'm grateful when she closes her eyes again. Then, her shuddering stops and she is once again still on the bed.

Benjamin whips out a stethoscope, checking her heartbeat as I begin to cry. She's not wheezing anymore. She's not moving at all. Benjamin flinches, stepping away from her and shaking his head.

"What?" Koda screeches, "What is it?"

"Her heart is slowing. She's not breathing," Benjamin says.

"No!" Koda snaps, his dark blue eyes meeting mine. "He's wrong.

my eyes against my tears. "I'm so sorry, I-I thought-"

"I'm sorry," I whisper, closing my

"No!" Koda screams again, his hands reaching beneath her head to lift her neck toward the light. "Look! Look there! Look at her neck!"

What? I wipe my eyes and glance at her throat. The punctures made by Koda's fangs, they're healing over. The flesh that was once gray around the bites, now pinkened and healing. The veins that were webbed, stretching like black ink fingers over her body seemed to climb back into themselves. Drawing backward as Jason's bitemarks began to slowly disappear. Her skin, although still mucky gray, seemed to blush with new color. Something is happening!

Benjamin's eyes narrowed as he stepped up to check her heart rate again. He shakes his head, "I don't know. Her heart is still slowing and she still isn't breathing."

"Give it a moment," I snap, shoving him out of the way to take her hand in my own. It might be my imagination, or maybe even wishful thinking, but I could swear she's not as cold anymore. "I think she's warming"

Koda smiles, dipping his head into her neck and taking her into his arms. He whispers, "Please be okay, please be okay. Don't you dare"

Her chest shudders and rises causing the three of us to yelp and step back, but then it begins to rise and fall gently as if she's simply asleep. Almost like Koda's venom has finally touched her heart and it's finally pumping properly.

2/4 Chapter One Hundred-Twelve.

Benjamin checks her again and Roda and I stand back. Each of us watch with eager eyes.

"WM!?!?" I

snap when Benjamin finally

draws back.

He glances at me then shrugs. "She's breathing. But her heart is still very weak. We'll have to wait and see if she awakens, but by the look of things, I'd say you saved her life."

Koda hits his knees, his breath coming out in a gust of wind. He smiles up at me, his eyes watering. Thank you."

"Now all that's left for us to do is wait for her to wake up," Benjamin says. "She might not, you know. She was pretty close to death and her brain may have experienced a lot of"

"Benjamin!" I snap, granting him my sweetest smile as I shove a hand over his mouth. One glance at Roda tells me he wasn't listening anyway - Thank God. His eyes are glued

to Emily. "Let's take a walk, yeah?" Benjamin nods, "I should stay nearby. To monitor her vitals. Unless you would rather Cadence do it."

Of no Oh hell no. "That's fine. Well stay nearby, but let's ghe

privacy. Okay?

Okay, slys.

Minuter, and

"Great pih, fana," Cadetur

Bite me you durch bach," I ha

wring th

And that

She snaps. "I run this place!

"And stay out, bitch," kata saya,

Domonk; chuckles. "Whutd_1

posing fuck is Domonic ???

Meanwhile Kosta sits next to her bed, his

11 any belp. He goes in to check her vital

(it again 11 slip him

step dance on the outside

ut of that you to snart in Cadences face. "I want you

through the infirmary doors to By past Domonic he steps

escapes tur lign.

The Pack: Rule Number 1 - No Mates

Chapter One Hundred-Thirteen

DOMONIC

Once I was finally able to ding Koda outside and away from Emily, I sen the infirmary stall home. Cadence included. The rest of us- Bartlett, James, Rainier, Timmons, Andrew, Lief, and Benjamin congregled just outside the building next to our cars. "If this is about that fucking rule, it can wait. I don't want to fight right now. I want to be the first person Emily sees when she wakes."

I shake my head, swallowing my guilt for the moment. I'll apologize eventually, sure, but right now there are more important things to discuss. "I've called a vote, and before I tell you what for I need confirmation." "Confirmation?" Koda hisses tiredly. "Of

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[1,479 words]

hapter One Hundred-Thirteen DOMONIC

Once I was finally able to ding Koda outside and away from Emily, I sen the infirmary stall home. Cadence included. The rest of us- Bartlett, James, Rainier, Timmons, Andrew, Lief, and Benjamin congregled just outside the building next to our cars. "If this is about that fucking rule, it can wait. I don't want to fight right now. I want to be the first person Emily sees when she wakes."

I shake my head, swallowing my guilt for the moment. I'll apologize eventually, sure, but right now there are more important things to discuss. "I've called a vote, and before I tell you what for I need confirmation."

"Confirmation?" Koda hisses tiredly. "Of what?"

I tilt my head, doing my best to keep my features steady, impassive. "Of whether or not you've decided to keep Emily."

for real?

He snorts, shaking his head as his eyes narrow at me. "Are you fo

"Just a

answer the question Koda."

His jaw clenches, his back going ramrod straight. "Yes. Of course I am.

"Are you willing to move your life here? I mean - is this place where you want to be?"

"Are you asking me if I'm willing to leave the pack just to be with her?"

That's not what I'm asking, but I nod anyway, just for kicks.

He glares, a low growl rumbling behind his throat. "If that's the way it has to be, then fine. I'll leave the pack."

So the answer is yes.

You'd give it all up for her?"

Koda nods, the dark blue of his gaze going cold as ice.

"Thank God," I say, "Because I've decided I would do the same. But, neither of us should have to."

Each of my brothers around us laughs, save for Rainier, who has gone eerily quiet.

"What the fuck does that mean, Dom?" Koda whispers, his muscles tensing. "Are you saying what I think you're saying?"

I nod, "Yup.

Called in a vole e with Paul and the others already. The only one left undecided was you."

Koda smiles, "And you already knew what my answer would be."

I laugh, "I had a pretty good idea."

"Was it unanimous then? Koda inquires jovially.

by jaw, my eyes locking with Rainier's cold brown gaze for a long, heavy moment. "More or less."

I clench my

Rainier smirks, ripping his gaze away to climb behind the wheel of his car and pull out of the parking lot. Koda loses his grin, "Where is he going?"

1/4

Chapter One Hundred Thirteen

I sigh, shaking my wad. To Argie, To Port Orchard."

"Hell get mer it," Bartlett remarks. "Give him some time."

Koda meets my gaze, "So he was the one vote against, huh? Why? I thought he liked Draven."

I shrug. He does, I don't think his wife for an had anything to do with Draven."

Koda sighs, glancing around as be shimmer of sunlight begins to shutter behind the mountains. "What are we going to do about this place?"

I smile as I turn toward Benjamin. "I think I have a plan for that too."

DRAVEN

"Dermavennon," a soft sing song voice chimes through my ears. "Draaazzwwwnnn."

Im uncomfortable. The right side of my face feels smashed against cool plastic and my arms are curled around my head shading my eyes. Drool dribbles from my mouth as I come to and I finally realize that there is a table beneath my face and 1 am in an uncomfortable plastic chair.

Slut, I must have fallen asleep.

"Dráven!" The voice snaps and I finally jolt to attention.

I slap my mouth, wiping the drool from my lips as I straighten my limbs. For a moment, I simply sit there in my seat, eyes blinking against the light, body wobbling back and forth as I try and make sense of where and who I am. It takes me a full on minute to realize the cute blond pixie standing before me next to the hospital bed is Emily.

"Emily?" I yelp.

She hardly gets to nod before I'm rocketting out of my seat to crush her beneath my arms. "We're not dead right? You're alive? And we're both standing here, right?"

She giggles, her tiny body folding into mine as we crash the bed into the wall. "We're alive."

I stand back, my eyes finally coming into focus as I take in her muddy clothes and the golden tan of her skin. My eyes go straight for her throat, for the bare trace of a crescent shaped mark near the side of her neck where Koda bit her hours ago. There are no black veins anywhere to be found and 1 suddenly feel like breaking out in a dance. That's when I notice, we are alone in the infirmary. Completely

alone.

"Where is everyone?" I ask absently, releasing Emily to wander a few steps into the half.

Emily shrugs. "Who is everyone?"

I cross my arms over my chest, my brow furrowing as I work to remember what happened just before I passed out.

Domonie came... he wanted to talk to Koda... Koda asked me to watch Emily for a few minutes while they stepped outside. I took a seat in the chair and must have simply passed out. After the last couple of nights that I've had, I guess it was to be expected. "How long have you

been awake?" I ask her.

She shrugs, "I don't know. A few minutes. When I woke up, you were the only one here.

I snicker, "Koda is going to flip out. He wanted to be here when you woke up."

She blushes, her dark onyx eyes filling with tears. "He saved me, didn't he?" she chokes out and I meet her gaze with a smile. "After Jason

2/4

Chapter One Hundred Thirteen

tying her eyes as the gas and the mom in pair

told that andele Koda was going to come for me, for he didnt belie

She sighs, her eyes falling sad. To be

1 Korda was going to look for me or not. I cally fold Sanon that to try and scare him."

bing over you for hours before I came. He was so afraid he was

A single tear spes her eyes to slide down her chank "Restart the r

raps

I nod, pulling her into another bug. "Come on, I want to hear every little thing you have to say about what happened, but I'm through twing in this place. Let's go find the go

"I'm worry I wasn't able to stop them sherges into my neck. "1-1 tried to get tops, but then he bit met And he left me in that place I thought I was going to die

My body shudder

close the actually came

ing exactly that. "Em, what's the last thing you remember? The bite?

the shakes her head, stepping back just as we hear the doors to the inferary open. "N-no, I-"

Domonic step inde

Emily waves at him shyly and I have to hid mile when Koda charges forward and closes his arms around her. The scene is so adorably intimate that I almost don't want to leave, but Dimonic tugt me into his arms and pushes me outside where the dawn is barely cresting the mountain tops. I shield my eyes from the sun and do a double take the line of vehicles and shifters standing in the parking lot.

"How long have I been out? I hiss

Domonic chuckles. A few hours. Long enough

Bart, Lief: Andrew, James, and Timmons are all leaning up against their respective vehicles. Each of them centering their crazy grins on

"What?" I bark "Do I still have drool on my chin?" They laugh and I roll my eyes, turning toward Domonic. What the hell are you up to. Mister Mayor? Something feels very strange. I glance around, noting that theres no one else up and about this early. No sign of Adam No sign of Benjamin. "Where's Benny Boy?

Domonic gronds. "Really? Is he the first thing on your mind this morning?"

I shake my head, no. "You better not have killed him."

He laughs, pulling me toward his Hummer. "Het at the town hall with the council."

"Really?" I say, shocked. "Why?

Domonic sighs, his silver eyes sparkling with mischief. "Because he's going to take over these parklands. And the rest of us are going to go

Home? I gasp, almost too afraid to ask as a smile tugs at my lips. "Does that mean. Are you giving this place to the Timber Wolves?

"It makes more sense to rebuild the packhouse in Port Orchard for our dads than it does to rebuild an entire town's thousand miles away. Doesnt it?"

I whisper, "But what about Jason? I thought..."

3/4

Chapter One Hundred-Thirteen

"I haven't forgotten. None of us have. But we voted on it already, and we decided that you and the safety of our pup is more important than revenge. If he shows his face, we'll be ready. But I'm done living my life in fear of the enemy, I want you with me, every single day." "So..." I start, biting my lips as I slide my arms around his neck. "We're going home to Port Orchard?"

He lifts his chin gracing me with a wide full dimple smile. "We are."

Chapter Comments

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[1,587 words]

POST COMMENT

The Pack: Rule Number 1-No Mates Chapter One Hundred-Fourteen

AUTHOR'S NOTE

There may have been a few mistakes in the last chapter. I attempted to change them, however they will not be live until my Editor approves the changes. I just wanted all to know that I am aware that Rainier was NOT outside with the rest of them. He left for Port Orchard at the beginning of the chapter.... My had TDL.

DRAVEN

One Werk Later

After dropping koda and Emily off at Kola's place, Dominic and I drove the three mile trek toward his house on the hill. It was early. after sunrise, and the beautiful evergreens were shrouded in their usual drapery, a fog thick enough to make the town appear alive in the clouds. I couldn't keep the smile off my face as we edged toward the top of the hill and closer to the modern extravagance I had missed so much over the past few weeks.

Domonic dimpled beside me, his hand stretching over the center console to slide up the inside of my thigh. "Missed it that much, did

With a bite of my lip, I nod as I turn my head toward the ocean, a view barely visible at the tip of his driveway. "Not as much as I missed you though." I admit, careful to disguise the crack in my voice. "It was really hard trying to force myself to stop loving you." Draven," he whispers guiltily, his hand on my leg squeezing gently as we pull in the driveway.

Itum toward him, shaking my head. "Don't. It's okay. Everyone makes mistakes. I did, you did. Let's just move on. No more being too afraid to live the way we want to. No more running away." I smirk. "Provided Margo has already been relocated, of course." He chuckles, Tames is moving her in himself as we speak. He said she was more than happy to go once he showed her the pictures of the place."

"It's that nice, huh?"

His silver eyes shudder, his muscles flexing as he pulls the car toward the back of the house. His voice lowers, "It had to be if it was going to house my princess."

My face heats as I study the sudden sadness in his eyes. Tm so glad you came after me."

He nods, his eyes lifting to stare out the window, as if at something far away. I'm an idiot. I really thought I would be able to love you

from afar but 1-

"Love me?" I chirp, my eyes watering

He squints, his brow furrowing. "Um... yeah," he chuckles, "Like I was saying I thought I could do it. I had no idea how much it would hurt. But I never want to feel that way again. Not now, not ever."

"I'm sorry," I interrupted again. "I just want to clarity. You said love me tight?"

He snorts, "Yes Draven. I said - love you. Is there a problem?"

I giggle happily, throwing off my seatbelt to climb into his lap. "No problem," I say, pressing my ass into his growing erection as he sits beneath me dumbfounded.

"Baby," he hisses, gripping my hips in his hands to anchor me in place. Be gentle. Gryffin should be hear anytime now and if you keep that up he's going to catch us fucking in the driveway."

1/4

Chapter One Hundred-Fourteen

I laugh, leaning forward to nip this rare with my teeth as I mill my hips against him in treachery. You realize that that's the very first time you've said "That you love me?"

"Christ," he moans, his head tipping back in pleasure as I taste his thrust greedily. To that what's got you on ta

vet my ass as he thrusts upward so roughly that my luck hits the steering wheel and the horn toots to the mythos "Mmmhmm," I mean, my hands going into his waistband to cup

"Oh fuck." He groans, sealing my body against his as he whispers in my ear, "That's not the first time I've said it baby. That's not from time you've heard it. I've said it plenty of times. While you were sleeping? I froze, my lips coming away from his neck as I glared down at him. "Are you serious?"

He bites his lip, nodding guiltily.

Eyes narrow and his dimples deepen in amusement. "You mean to tell me that you let me wander around wondering if you might do it to me one day. Because I know I've said it at least twice!?!?"

"Didn't know you were counting, baby," he quips with a grin. "But I promise I've said it more than a few times."

"Out loud?"

He shrugs, "Does it matter?"

He

"It does," I snap, squeezing his dick with the edge of my nails.

His hisses, his body quaking upward. "H-hey now, gentle, be gentle..."

"You know what," I tease, leaning in just enough for my tongue to trace the cords of his neck. "I think I'm going to punish you." I give his dick another squeeze just as I hear the familiar sound of a street bike racing up the hill. "You and Griffin are heading up to see Benin right?" I trail my nails up his shaft as I release his cock and smack the side of his face playfully. "I think you should spend the entire day up with balls of solid rock."

"Baby," he groans miserably as I pop open his door and step out into the brisk morning air. I snatch the house keys out of his pocket as Griffin and Tadora roll into the drive. "Why would you do that to me? He glares, grumbling. "You're so evil"

I chuckle, leaning in to place a hot wet kiss on his lips. Drive safe."

"Gross!" Taedora says, her braids swinging as she tears off her helmet to grab me in a tight hug. "No stroking your pets in front of your

guests

"I missed you so much!" I squeal, pulling her away from her bike toward the backhouse that she's agreed to live in for the endurance of my pregnancy. "You're going to love this place, I say, tossing her the keys to the condo.

She chuckles. "I don't know about that. But as long as you're around stomach it. Gotta make sure-my Godchild is safe."

"Godchild?" Domonic snaps, as Gryffin slides into the Hummer next to him. "Who decided that?"

"Leave it," Gryff warns with a shake of his head. "You don't want to get in the middle of those two,

"Wait a minute, you!" Domonic snaps, climbing out of the Hummer with a wince as he adjusts his pants. "Come here for a second baby. I have something I want to give you before I leave."

I cock an eyebrow, sidling up to him as he reaches into his back pocket and pulls out a small black velvet box

My heart thuds in my chest, my breath catching as I realize what must be inside of it. I shake my head, "Domonic! 1-"

2/4

B

Chapter One Hundred-Fourteen

The reaches oil, lite silver eyes doing dark. "You don't have to miser met first take it. Hold onto I only ready to say you? He shrugs, "When you aro - you con po

I smile, my eyes watering as I take his gift and slip it into my pocket, at sounds fair, I say, allowing is in ged me in for another kiss.

That I ling

The grins, burying his face in the contain of my hair. 'Til la has blood samples. Will any lock he'll be aldo to give

"I know, I say, "Are you Ininging your dad back with you?"

He sighs heavily. "He says he isn't ready yet. But, well now,"

"Understood," I say, stepping back to watch lid climb back into the Hammer,

"Good riddance," Tandora mouths as the pair of them oversu groan about his Hon."

out. "I was getting so damn tired of listening to Gryffin moan and

She eyes me as we step into the main house and I wander through

"What the hell are you doing Dog girl?"

'Checking for strays."

the fest floor taking deep breaths and sniffing for Marg

She laughs heartily as she lips on the television and tumbles onto the couch.

"All clear down herer 1 exclaim, sauntering upstairs just to freeze the moment my feet hit the landing.

The door to the guest room' is open and what I see inside has my chest verlowing behind my eyes.

g with warmth. "Oh my God," I whimper as tears gather

Taedora is behind me so fast i llinch at her sudden neamess. "What? What's wrong?" She gazes past me into the room that is now painted the most beautiful shade of baby blue. "When?" I choke out. "How?"

I step into the room which has been turned into a nursery. A crib in on corner, a rocking chair in the other. A changing table and hanging mobile along one wall. A giant stuffed sheep pillow next to the window, with a painted wolf and her cub along the closet doors. "Whoa," Toedora gushies. This is beautiful."

"Yes, it is," I say with a smile. "This must be why he wouldn't let me come home for a week"

"The boy has more game than I thought he did," she croons, wagging her eyebrows up in approval.

I reach in my pocket and pull out the velvet box, smiling at Taedora os lip it open.

But that is where it all ends. The joy, the smiles, the comfort.

Why?

HERIN

Because there isn't a ring inside the box like I thought there would be. No... Instead there's a tiny scrap of paper message scribbled in red ink. And it reads... with two words of a

..No Mates.

3/4

Chapter One Hundred-Fourteen

Chapter Comments

Marietta Gary

He is going to kill.

KKN

oh hell nah they took the ring

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11

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

[1,278 words]

The Pack: Rule Number 1 - No Mates

Chapter One Hundred-Fifteen

DRAVEN

My eyes darken, my body shivering as I read the scrap of a message over and over again.

What is this? Why would Domonic give me something like this?

"What is it?" Tandora asks. "What's wrong?"

My hands are trembling as I snap

the

box closed without answering. "I-I'm not sure... I

"What is it, Draven? What's in the box?"

I meet her hazel gaze with worried eyes and she curses, ripping the box from my hands and opening it. I gaze around at the beautiful nursery for a long moment, my presence in the room feeling suddenly alien and somewhat out of place. I think of Domonic's happy face. The way he looked before he left me in the driveway. Does he know what's in the box? How can he not?

"Oh... fuck," Tardora murmurs, shaking her head and placing the now closed box back in my hands. "Someone else did this. We have to call Domonic

Suddenly the memory of Domonic shoveling me to safety burns into my mind and I snap, "No!"

Tandora pauses, her fingers posed over the dial pad of her phone as she studies me. "No?"

I take a deep breath in an attempt to control my nerves as I gaze out the window toward the beauty of the woods and whatever might be watching there. "No," I repeat, my eyes lighting with anger. I don't know what it means but I do know this - Domonic would not have put it there. He'll only get upset. He'll want to be careful. Hell-

sat message in there for me. Someone else did. And if

"-send you away," she finishes

as our gazes clash and I shove the damned jewelry box back in my pocket. She nods at me in understanding. "And you're sure he didn't put it in there?"

My eyes are wildly. "What?"

She giggles, shrugging, "I had to ask." She sighs, "I know all about the No Mates thing. We all do. And I agree with you. Domonic wouldn't

have done this"

Inod, wrapping my arms around myself to force the sudden chill fo

from my bones. Im not going to let him push me away again."

She grins, her eyes flashing yellow then hazel "Well then, I guess theres only one thing for us to do."

"What's that?" I whisper, my mind clouding with anger as I flip the shade swatch to the beautiful nursery and deny whomever may be watching the pleasure of looking in on my unborn child's room. She smirks "We figure it out ourselves. And we get a couple more shifters down here to keep you protected."

My head jetti

ad jerks up. "What about Emily and Koda? I nibble my lip as I realize this

Easily too. "It's still early and we only just dropped them off. They might be..."

message is no longer only a threat to me. It's a threat to

Busy?" Tardora chuckles.

"Right," I say. "But Bart. He can come over. He may have an idea where to start looking for

And you trust him not to say anything?

1/3

Chapter One Hundred-Fifteen

I nod, a fresh smile breaking through my worry. Absolutely."

DOMONIC

Im pretty sure it will take us longer to arrive on Crown Mountain if you get arrested for Reckless Driving," Gryffin saya belandly. wanted to by you only needed ask. We could have taken the bikes."

I chuckle, like my Hummer better. Besides, you still havent shifted in over a month. Maybe you shouldn't be riding until you get Tion back. Just imagine... you crash, slide across the asphalt, and can't bad. You should be glad you have a seatbelt on. This car quite a distance before it becomes dangerous,"

Gryffin groans, "Just had to bring that up, did you? Asshole."

"I did." I say mockingly.

"I hope this doctor of yours can help. Gryflin comments sadly,

"To be honest... I don't know, Personally, I think he's kind of a moron, but Draven likes him. She trusts him. Besides, are not the only on we need to speak with," I say, thinking of Gabriel who is presently locked away in the dungeon of Town Hall. The plan remains to banish him, but with Jason still out there, we decided it wasn't yet safe to set him free. A good thing too, because as much as I lute to admit it. Gabriel might provide more useful to Gryffin's problem than Benjamin. After all, Gabriel has access to a labi. Benjamin does out. "You know? I never realized how truly weak humans are, I mean I knew they were inferior. But... I hadn't realized how interior until When it first happened. I was sure I was dying. I felt so tired all of the time. I really began to beline that one day I was going to steep and simply stay that way. He chuckles, Tactually started to look forward to it."

My head snaps up, my gaze narrowing. "What? Why would you ev
even say something like that?"

He sighs, "It's the truth. Try to imagine what you would feel like without your wolf."

You re right, it would be tough and I would definitely feel lost, but... trail off thinking of Draven and how she would feel if I wanted to die because I couldn't shift. "But it wouldn't matter as much to me to lose my wolf as it would to lose Drawn?"

Nice that you finally realized that. Took you long enough."

"Ha- fuck off."

"Having a Queen to look after certainly changes things. If I still had mine 1-he cuts out with a frown "never mind." He grimaces, stukig himself. It took some time before I realized what I was feeling was not that I was dying. It was that... I was becoming human" Shit," I reply. "And what if you are becoming human. What if we cant find help for you? Will that be so bad?"

Gryffin's muscles tense his once golden eyes now a muted brown, dimming sadly. "I don't know, I guess.. I just have to believ will find an answer for this, I refuse to accept that my lion is gone. I was born a lion and I will die one. One way or another to figure this out." UNKNOWN

Il bastardo Marcus è morto? The bastard Marcus is dead?

è signore. E stato ucciso prima che ci scagliassimo contro di lui." He is sir. He was killed before we set upon him.

"E che dire della ragazza? Draven? And what of the girl? Draven?"

"E stato confermato, signore. Lei è incinta." It has been confirmed sir. She is with child.

13.03 Thu, Nov 14 U

Chapter One Hundred-Fifteen

"Eccellente. Invia un messaggio all'ambasciatore internazionale. Avrh hugno di un alloggio e di organizzare whito Send word to the international ambassador. I will need hodglugs and travel arrangements made at once. going to see her it last?

Allora, la vedrete finalmente? So then, you are going

"Si. Prepara i lupi gamma. Partiamo tra due glomi." Yes. Prepare the Go wolves. We leave in two days.

"Come vuoi, Alfa,." As you

wish, Alpha

Stepping toward the fireplace, I reach for its centerpiece. For the wood carved box I had made twenty years ago when I left my prest life take my rightful place here in Italy. I smile as I open it and remove the locket I have kept safe since the day I left. The gold gleams in the firelight as I unlatch the heart shaped pendant and gaze upon the beauty of the child's picture inside.

I speak to the smiling photo with tears of longing in my eyes, "Finalmente la mia dolce ragazza. E tempo per noi di incontrare di nonen Finally my sweet girl. It is time for us to meet again Chapter Comments

Visitor

Darvens DAD!!! Can't wait any longer next chapter please

Donna Kelly

Holy mother! This is getting even better! Great cliffhanger!

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[1,368 words]

3/1

The Pack: Rule Number 1 - No Mates

Chapter One Hundred-Sixteen

DRAVEN

Five minutes after I called him, Dart was strolling through the front doors like an avenging angel. His stride was steady and unhurried, his eyes scanning the perimeter through the windows. Ever vigilant up until the point that he realized Taedora and I were baking biscuits in the kitchen. Brows furrowed in confusion, he asks, "What kind of emergency calls for biscuits and gravy?"

I grin, tossing my oven mitts up on the counter as I leap into his arms for a warm welcoming hug. "We're making breakfast for everyone."

"Everyone?" Bart asks. "Who is everyone?"

I smile bouncing back on my heels. "Emily, Koda, and you."

"Emily and Koda? Are you sure they're going to make it?"

I laugh, my eyes sparkling as I nod toward the driveway and the silver SUV pulling in behind Bart's truck. "Yup."

An hour later the five of us are gathered in the living room when I pull out the jewelry box and flip the lid open for all to see. A chorus of gasps and curses follow. Koda tenses, his arms going so tight around Emily that she yelps. "When did Domonic give that to you?" Bart asks, reaching forward to take it in his hands.

"This morning," I say. Just before he left. He told me to keep it until my answer was yes and then... just that I should put it on and he would know." I smile, my eyes watering at the memory. "When I saw what he did to the guestroom - how he made it into a nursery'-I swallow-'I opened it to put it on and-"

That message was there instead of the ring," Koda hisses. "Have you asked Domonic about it?"

I shake my head. "No."

Any particular reason why?" Bart asks.

"You know why," I say simply.

He and Koda both nod. "Right," Bait acknowledges. "You don't want him to send you away again."

Koda growls, "Excuse me for a minute." The rest of us watch as Koda settles Emily on the seat next to him and steps out front.

"Where the hell is he going?" Taedora quips, hopping out of her seat to peer out the front door.

"Not far," Emily says. "He won't leave me. This is the farthest he's been from me since we got back here."

"He's on the phone," Bart says, meeting my gaze. "Calling Rainier."

"What?" I snap. "Why Rainier? What does he have to do with a
of it

Bart chuckles humorlessly. "Aside from the fact that he's the one who Domonic had retrieve the ring in the first place?"

"He is 1 gasp, my eyes narrowing as something nags at me, gnawing at the back of my mind.

Rainiers always been nice to me, but I've always sensed a slight resentment. Like he wasn't entirely happy that I was here. Could he have put that message in the box for me to read? Or for Domonic to see and once again decide it was too dangerous for me to stay? 1/4

Chapter One Hundred-Sixteen

Ideally hope not, but maybe the best thing to do is confront him about it and find out.

Lahead in the room perks up when Roda comes back in the front. His eyes go straight for Taedora. "You helped put up the cameras

round the bar and the Sheriff Station?

Turdura nude, her eyes going vivid and catlike as she purrs, "I did. Why does it matter?"

"Well soon see," Koda informs. The ring was buried behind the dungeon exit of the Sheriff Station. One of the places we had you lions place the cameras. If someone dug it out before Rainier did, we'll know

bart hoses. And if there's no one on the camera but Rainier..."

Koda nods, "Then there's only one other person who might have had access."

Bart rubs his chin thoughtfully in understanding as their eyes meet over the tabletop. "And Rainier is looking through the footage as we

what he finds and bring it over afterward," Koda explains.

Tudor's gaze narrows at him warily. "So you don't think Rainier had something to do with at that,

his dark blue eyes taking on the first glimpse of anger I've seen since Emily woke up from her coma. "Rainier is a lot of

not a traitor." Koda returns to his seat lifting Emily back into his arms the moment he sits down. I have to smile upping the way he relaxes once he snuggles into her neck. Is that what Dominic and I were like all of the time? No wonder everyone knew I "You two are adorable," I say with a smile

Instead of the embarrassed anger I'm used to seeing from Koda, his eyes heat as he draws Emily in closer. She blushes prettily, falling

kisses her lips softly. From my seat on the end of the couch I watch Bart smile sadly, his eyes focused on the pair of them as they cuddle and I notice for the first time how truly lonely Bart seems to be. I don't know what possesses me to speak my bed thoughts out loud, but

I do.

"Your murte will find you too, Bart. I promise." I whisper and his eyes flare wide before meeting mine.

He clears his throat. "That's a nice thought kiddo. But it doesn't make it true

I smile, reaching over to squeeze his hand. "It's true. I can feel it,"

lay." Tardona squawks. Because that wasn't weird at all."

I tip her off, grabbing the jewelry box off the table and placing it back inside my pocket. "Okay. So back to the task at hand. Assuming there's nothing on the cameras," I say, pacing back and forth as I stare out at the yard. "Who is the only other person that might have access, his gaze lowering with a shake of his head.

I take a deep breath,

words coming out so softly they're almost hard to hear, "Rainier's human wife. Angle."

"Kaituer has a mate??" I yelp. "Why didn't I know that?"

Har studies his head, granting me a wan smile. "She's i

not his mate. But she is his wife."

De Dume. "So be married someone who was not his mate?"

kude and fart no I in unison, their eyes locking from across the room.

2/4

Chapter One Hundred Sixteen

And his wife Angle is now what Baller

Honestly? Bart shangs I don't know he might that he's and

Tene lag have they lun married? Lask

Alisel a you. Angle Breally want into town a year add

she was the sole uusia of a luating accident

Angle Hainier was the first man on the araw when she was founded seemed to regain
les mury, they fell in love and were married

"Huh," I half, with a cross of my at

the wildly way

was with why you by the hea

tagh they kee

i

Theadora asks before saying Hightfully, I ender being and Well yes HAIT

Bart ds. "Yes. We all felt sorry for her. When it came out that her fly der har ything and
the

And you're sure they're not mates? I ask, thinking to myself that Don's des might how
pedalier seg o

irdivious that theyrer

smile cheekily. "Look who's talking

He grins. "Maybe I should call Itainier back and tell him to bring Angin

I hate my lip thoughtfully. "Maybe, but Hainder already doesn't like me very much, so I don't know how that have to tell her what she supposedly don't know?

Bart grumbles, "It's not th he doesn't like you." He sighs, his eyes taking that faraway bunk again. "I mean, think about it. Be girl thinking none of us would ever he allowed to have mates. Then Dobsonic meets you, Koda meets Emily- and just like that, have been changed."

"Understood," I say softly. "That's really kind of sad too, if you think about with the damaged girl he fell in love with?"

"Exactly," Bart agree.

Because what if Painier meets Aus mate? W

Suddenly it occurs to me. If Angie washed up on the beach a year and a half ago - then she couldn't have anything to do with wouldn't have known anything about it. But... if she had somehow discovered what the boys were and had heard about their rules somehow... she might be feeling threatened. So I ask, "How often do these messages pop up? These No Mates warnings?"

Bart's eyes go dark as he leans back in his seat. 'Not until after you arrived, Draven. There's never been any threat to the rule... until you."

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Chapter One Hundred-Seventeen DOMONIC

The Village Du Loup Rouge is a bustle of activity when Gryffin and I active. The guards at the gate simply not me through and the moment we pull into the parking lot at Town Hall Colence and Tanyare on me. Fucking hell. These bitches again?

"Domonic!" Tanya gushes, reaching for my neck as she peers around me to lock

kryeso

on Gryffin.

rin as she saws. "My mate would prefer it if you didn't touch me." I shover I slap her hands away, granting her my signature dimpled grin as her away from my door with the door itself. And so would L Damonic! 1-1-1-

"Have you been to see your father? I hear he still wants to die," I say rudely, shoving past her to nod Gryffin toward the Town Hall entrance.

"Hey! I've been meaning to talk to you," Cadence exclaims, her eyes locking on each part of my anatomy with unadulterated interest. "Benjamin says I'm no longer in charge of the infirmary. Is that true?" "Hmun," I mumble, pretending to think about it. "You still have your classes to attend in Vancouver and contrary to popular belief you tent an actual doctor yet. Benjamin is. He is also the acting Alpha. So if he says you're out then you're out." She purses her lips, her arms locking around herself 'So you're seriously leaving this pack for that tiny little town of yours? Really?"

watch your mouth."

I shrug, pushing past her and moving away from my Hummer. "That's my home you're talking about, Cady. Watch your

"Fine," Cadence hisses. "But you can't expect us to just absorb forty new pack members like it's nothing. There's hardly any space for them

here."

"The same way they absorbed you when you migrated from the other side of the mountain?" I snipe, my eyes going cold. "I most certainly can. Take it up with your Alpha. And... despite that you might want me to be... I'm not him." Gryffin chuckles as we leave the desperate females on the steps and walk through the front doors. "Fangirls?"

I laugh, shrugging off the disgusting feeling that comes from just the memory of the day I took Tanya's virginity. "To be fair, I used to be an asshole. It's not entirely Tanya's fault that she can't get over me. I've got a really big dick." "Oh-ho-ho," Gryffin guffaws. "That's what you think. And you only think that, because you've never seen mine." He winks.

My face sours.

'Nice

to know

w some of your

lion instincts are still strong. Even if they are wrong."

"Domonic!" My dad exclaims happily, coming out of the hallway that leads to the Alpha's offer. "So happy that you're here!" He scans the lobby, his eyes going dark as he realizes I only brought Gryffin

Don't look so glum old man," I tease. "She's at home settling in. She said to tell you she's waiting for you."

My dad sighs, his eyes lighting with joy at just the mention of Draven. He clears his throat," Ahem. Ah yes - well... I still have some things to take care of here first. The transition hasn't been easy for the Timber Wolves. There are a lot of people who resent Benjamin's placement as Alpha. "Has he decided on a Beta yet?" I ask

1/3

43:09: Thu Nov 14

Chapter One Hundred-Seventeen

My dad shakes his head, "Not yet. However, there are quite a few of the guards who would like to be considered. I was thinking you might help him choose."

"Have them fight for it. Strongest male wins."

My father chuckles, his gaze narrowing. "We're a bit more diplomatic here," he says.

"And how is that working for you?"

He grunts. "Point taken. I'll see about forming an assembly of candidates."

"How's Thomas doing?" I inquire as the three of us make our way toward the dungeon stairs.

My dad loses his smile. "Not good. He refuses to eat. He's determined to kill himself. Personally, after what he did to Draven, I'm in favor of watching him die. But... you said it was to be Rainier's decision and so far he wants his father to live." Unlocking the doors to the stairwell that leads underground, he steps back. "Gabriel is in the interrogation room as requested," he sighs. "But Domonic-he paused, squeezing my shoulder and holding my gaze-"you decreed that he would be exiled. I'm going to need you to fulfill that promise to "I'd much rather kill him.

"I'm aware of how much you hate him... but you have to remember, I watched him grow up. I was the one to kill his father. If you won't do it for him then do it for me."

growl, shrugging out of my father's grip as Gryffin and I step past him into the hall. "I'll think about it."

We descend the stairs quickly stepping past Thomas in his cell on our way toward the interrogation room. Thomas barely glances my way, a tiny hint of a smile stretching across his haggard features. I take note of the thinness in him, the darkness of his soulless black eyes. It's fucking creepy to look at and I promise myself right then to talk Rainier into making a decision soon. He's going to have to order his father's death or I am going to set that fucker free myself. With a blade to the throat if need be.. Once in the interrogation room, Gryffin and I take a seat across from Gabriel who is chained to the wall like the criminal he is

"I remember you," Gabriel chuckles humorlessly, eyeing Gryffin with an inquisitive glare. "You're that Lion King from Port Orchard." He sniffs, his eyes flaring in surprise. "But you smell like a human. So what the devil are you doing here? Gryffin tenses, his hands clamping together on the table in front of us as I clear my throat to draw Gabriel's attention.

"He's here with me," I say smoothly. "We have some questions for you."

Gabriel sneers, his lip going up in disgust. "You promised I'd be banished. Yet here I am still. I had hoped you were here to set me free. But instead you come in here with your shiftless kitten and want me to answer questions." He scoffs, "Nope. I don't think so." growl begins to rumble deep in my chest as I lean toward Gabriel and spit, "The Full Moon shift is in a week. Do you really want to be stuck in here for that? Or would you rather answer my questions and be allowed out like the rest of the wolves?" you're not going to let me out. I'm not stupid. I want to

Gabriel smiles, his eyebrows rising upward in amusement. "Don't tease me. I know you be banished as promised."

"Why? so you can meet back up with Jason and terrorize my mate? I don't think so Gabe. Not happening."

Gabriel growls, his fists straining against the chains as his anger takes him over. I don't give a flying fuck about Jason or any of that shit! I just want to be free! There are things you don't know about! Things you don't understand! People who are counting on me. My mo-" he cuts off, schooling his features and relaxing against his chains. "Never mind. I apologize for my outburst. What did you want to ask of

2/3

Chapter One Hundred-Seventeen.

But it's too late. My interest peaked. But knowing Gabriel, that may be exactly what he wanted of me, Spit a little tale or be to get my mind on other things. He's not dumb he's an idiot for sure but not anth. "Okay Gabe," I mo. Til bite. Who is counting on you? What is it that you're pretending you didn't want to say?"

Gabriel chuckles, his blue eyes lighting with mischief. "I guess you're not just a muscle-bound meathead after all."

My finger goes up, I can't help it. I don't want to like the guy and I do but he's the epitome of a smartass,

Gabriel sighs, losing his shit eating grin for the barest of moments. "You remember that my father was executed for killing his mate. Don't you? Your dad ripped him apart piece by piece in the middle of the river. For murdering my mother and my sister."

I nod, my heart clenching in my chest momentarily as I realize why my dad has always felt responsible for Gabriel.

He nods, leaning forward in his seat to smile his wicked grin. "Your father has always felt bad about the fact that I watched him do it. And yes I have unapologetically accepted all the perks that his guilt has granted me. But, you see, there's something that you didn't know.. Something that I couldn't tell you about my mother's and my sister's deaths."

"And what is that?"

Gabriel's eyes light with a cold fury as he laughs quietly. They were staged."

I flinch, my muscles tensing as I try to absorb his words. "What? Not possible. My dad wouldn't have executed your father that way unless he had concrete proof of their murders."

"Maybe," he says with a shrug. "You might want to ask him."

"Your dad was a criminal," I say, growling, "A vagabond. He terrorized humans constantly. He raped women from all over. There was more than one reason why he should be executed." Even as I say it, my mind begins to whirl. Clouded memories of the twelve discussing the disappearance of Gabriel's family and what they were finally going to do about his father creeping up through the fog of yesterday. Gabriel nods as if he can read my thoughts. He smiles, not word so far. "Someone stole your venom, didn't they?"

giving me any more than that. His gaze lands on Gryffin who hasn't said a

Gryffin's back goes ramrod straight, his gaze shifting to mine before answering. "Yes."

you are looking for. But I

Gabriel grins. "Then I guess you're the one I should be bargaining with. Because I do - in fact - have the answers you will not give them up unless this asshole-he jerks his chin

in my direction "not only sets me free, but escorts me to my mother." Chapter
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