

Chapter 17

Zander's POV

She turns and leaves me standing and it takes everything in me not to go back after her. She thought about rejection just moments ago and now she's running away. I've really nailed this whole 'mate' thing. I had spent so long convincing I didn't have a mate, that I have no clue how to act now that she's actually here. If I ever did find her, I knew I'd do anything for her. I'd try to make her would feel loved and cherished, not scared and trying to stay away from me like she is now.

I grip the railing trying to get my emotions under control. I just want her so bad but I need her to trust me first. A storm is brewing and I need her next to me in order to keep her safe. Liam and I can protect her, but not if she's trying to run from us.

I look at the clock on the wall and see that it's now almost 9 a.m. and I'm going to be late for a meeting I have with my Beta and Gamma. Something that NEVER happens. I run back to my room and take a quick shower before throwing on some grey slacks and a black button down shirt. When I finally stroll into the room at 9:18, Kane looks at me as if I have two heads.

"What the hell happened to you?" He says.

"Better question is what the hell hasn't happened to me." I growl out in irritation.

"Well let's just get to it." Kane says before turning to Rivers to speak.

"There's been attacks at other packs." Rivers says as he begins to lay out pictures of the victims. "All of the pack's Alphas are getting concerned and are requesting a meeting to discuss what to do. It will be difficult to get everyone in the same room on such a short notice but it seems like we can get everyone here in two weeks."

I flip through the pictures and nod. "Great. Let's set up the War Room to

hold 25 head."

The 'War Room' is our large conference room where we hold all of our pack meetings, usually with the Alphas. When you put that much power and testosterone in the same room, discussions usually get pretty heated, hence the name.

"Also, I want to set up a formal ball for the night after. All wolves are welcomed to attend."

This causes both of them to turn to me in shock.

"And what's the occasion?" Kane is hesitant as he asks, not sure if he's going to like the answer.

"The King has decided to make his appearance."

They both act as though the air got knocked out of them.

"I can't keep this up anymore, there's too much at stake. A war is coming regardless and the wolves need their leader." My voice is strong as I stand up, both of my men clearly surprised but smiles playing across their face from the news that I've decided to step up to the front line and lead our people.

In all honesty, I should have done it a long time ago. I thought I was protecting everyone but in reality, I was just causing everyone to question the leadership. If it wasn't for my Beta and Gamma, this place would have turned to chaos.

"I will get everything ready." Rivers says before I leave the room to work on some other details.

A few days later, I walk into Kane's office to discuss the upcoming meeting.

"I want to give you an update on the armor." He begins and my interest spikes. I haven't seen her in 3 long days and I've been doing anything necessary to keep busy, hoping she'll come to me when she's ready.

"The updated prototype will be ready to show tomorrow. I'm hoping to have a finished product by the meeting days so we can show it to the

Alphas."

I nod my head slowly in thought. This would benefit us and show that we've been working on ways to protecting our packs. "I-"

I'm cut off by the windows shattering. Glass flies everywhere and I can hear metal rolling around on the floor as smoke fills the room. The air quickly becomes dense and it gets harder to breathe by the second as some kind of gas spills into the small area. I search for the source of the smoke and hear a body drop to the ground as I spin around to see Kane has passed out. I fall to my hands and knees and slowly crawl, searching the floor with burning eyes. My vision becomes spotted and my lungs are on fire as I gasp for air but continue to suck in the toxic smoke. I cough, unable to take the burning in my chest and my head hits the floor as I hear movement around the room.

I begin to black out and blink rapidly as I focus on the small cylinder that's under the desk, holding the source of the contamination. I reach out and grasp it in my hand tightly, trying to maintain a grip on it. My brain's survival instincts flare as my body struggles to sit up in a last ditch effort to survive. Throwing the object as hard as I can, I pray it made it out the window.

I fall over to my side and wheeze as the smoke slowly starts to clear and the air becomes cleaner. I see someone moving in the corner of the room and I struggle to sit up as a flash goes by and pain surges across my skin. My fingers are coated in warm blood as I press my hand to the wound on my chest. I can see Kane struggle to pull himself up out of the corner of my eye and I hear a snicker from behind.

I turn around to see a tall, slender figure with a malicious grin on his face. His silver eyes stand out against his tan skin and pointed ears stick straight up from beneath his jet black hair as he tosses a silver dagger from one hand to the other. I ground my teeth together as I stare at the taunting man.

Fae.

I growl as I try to stand up, still light headed from the previous lack of oxygen. He's quick as he leaps across the room and sends a fist into

the side of my jaw. My wolf rages inside me as I spit out blood onto the floor and I turn to see the man holding Kane with the knife to his throat. I freeze and anger seethes inside me, Liam begging to be let loose.

"The Beta and I will be leaving now." He says with a smirk on his face.

Kane's eyes are wide in fear as he looks back at me, knowing he'll probably be tortured if he leaves here.

"Let him go." I growl through clenched teeth, power dripping from my words.

The man falters for a minute but he quickly recovers. "Give it up warrior." He says as he takes a step back towards the window, dragging Kane with him. "And send this message to your pathetic coward of a King. We have his Beta and if the werewolf kingdom doesn't bow down and surrender, we'll slice his throat first to signal the war when we meet on the battlefield."

Rage takes over me as I shift into my wolf form and let out a roar. The man freezes in horror and his hold on the dagger slightly loosens, giving Kane the chance to bat it away. He lunges towards the broken window to escape but I catch his leg between my jaws. His bones crack under the pressure and he lets out a painful cry as I drag him back.

Rage and revenge are coursing through my veins as I stand over him and bare my teeth. I shift back into human form but can see the little bitch shaking in fear underneath me. "No..." he whispers "This can't be possible."

"Who's the fucking coward now?" I spit out.

My claws elongate as I raise my hand and plunge it into his chest. His eyes widen and his mouth opens to scream but no noise comes out. I pull back as he falls over, revealing his heart tightly gripped in my hand and I throw it down on the ground next to him.

I fall into a heap next to Kane as my adrenaline slowly starts to die down and I realize exactly what I did. I haven't had blood lust like that since the last time I was on the battle field, and I'm almost disgusted with my wolf. Our heavy breathing is the only sound that fills the room

as we both sit, unable to speak. I finally turn to my Beta after several long minutes and look around his office.

"What a fucking mess."

Chapter Comments



