

Chapter 26

Nicola's POV

The next morning after Zander left, I get a knock on my front door. I walk over and open it up, completely surprised and confused as I stare back at the male.

"What's up?" Rivers smack on his gum as he holds a duffle bag in one hand.

"Umm... hi?" I look around to see if there's a camera hidden somewhere.

"Soooo you gonna let me in or not?" He asks.

"Oh. Uh, sure." I step to the side and he walks through the door way.

He throws his bag on the floor next to the couch and glances around before turning to face me. When his eyes finally meet mine he says... nothing.

"Can I help you?" I say as I cock my eyebrow.

"Nope. But I can help you." He proceeds to sit down on the couch, making himself at home. "Zander wants someone to watch over and stay with you while he's gone in case something happens. And lucky for you, I'm the man for the job." He winks.

I start to laugh at him and then quickly realize he's not joking. He really thinks he's staying with me.

"Oh my god, you're serious." I say.

"As a heart attack." He smirks and I refrain from rolling my eyes.

"I only have one bedroom." And he sure as hell isn't sleeping with me.

"That's fine, I can crash anywhere." He pats the couch he's on.

I grimace at the fact that Rivers is probably going to be invading my

space for the next two weeks. I would fight it more but I know there's no use, once Zander called the order it's set in stone.

"Alright well make yourself comfortable, I guess. I have to go to work." I say as I grab my keys and quickly leave.

The next week wasn't all that bad. Rivers is like having an annoying older brother around but I don't see him that much since we're both working most of the time. I've heard from Zander a few times, and while that's made things a little better, my wolf had been mokey since he left.

When I get home in the afternoon, I notice Rivers isn't at the house yet and begin to revel in the little bit of alone time. I take a quick shower but as soon as I step out, I hear the front door open and close.

"It's me!" Rivers calls out.

When I get dressed, I walk back out to chat for a moment. He talks about Zander having a break through when visiting Alex's pack and that he thinks Rand is planning something on the next full moon. I'm so close to having the project done and this gives me even more incentive to finish if they think there might be an attack.

Two days later, we've worked out the final touches on the armor and are ready for all the men to get fitted. I grab a set we already have complete and take it home for Rivers. We won't even be close to having all the warriors suited up before the next full moon, but I want him to have it just in case shit hits the fan. We have no clue what's coming.

"Here. This is yours." I say as I hold out the gear for him.

"I didn't think you were giving these out for a few more days." His eyes light up as if he got a new toy.

"I'm not, but we all know you're special." I smirk at him, sarcasm lacing my tone and he narrows his eyes.

"Thanks." He finally says as he grabs it and gives me a boyish smile.

"No problem." I wave him off before going into my room.

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The days continue to drag on slowly and I feel like I'm starting to get depression without Zander near. My body aches and I'm slowly losing motivation to do anything at all. It's around lunch time and I'm laying in bed, rolling around and trying to find a comfortable position. My stomach feels tight and the house feels like the AC might have went out.

I hear the door open and close and I thank the goddess Rivers has came back so I can get him to check on the air.

"Rivers" I groan.

Nothing.

"RIVERS" I yell this time.

Still nothing. Bastard.

I grumble and roll over again, contemplating getting up to see what his deal is. I decide I'm too lazy and he's not worth the energy as I continue to lay in my bed. I'm starting to get feverish but then it hits me. It's a full moon tonight. I'm going back into heat.

"Fuckkk!" I groan and tears start to prick my eyes.

I begin to cry in frustration as I realize the pain I'm going to be in tonight without my mate here. I here the door open and close again and I figure Rivers has finally left me to be an emotional female on my own. Suddenly, my bedroom door flies open and I see his figure make his way over to me.

"Nicola? What's wrong?" He asks as he lays a hand on my back.

"I thought you left." I sniff through the pain.

"You're crying because you thought I left? Why made you think that?" He asks confused.

"Because you came home almost an hour ago and I kept calling you but you wouldn't come." I explain, ignoring the first question. "Then the door just opened and closed again so I figured you left, but you're still

here." I wave my hand.

His body stiffens. "What do you mean you thought I came home an hour ago?"

"I heard you walk in an hour ago," I tell him. "Didn't you hear me calling for you?"

Rivers eyes go wide as he stares at me and then grabs the gun at his waist and slowly walks out of my bedroom. I don't hear anything for several minutes until there's a loud crash. I quickly jump out of bed and rush out into the living room. I can hear grunts and punches being thrown in the kitchen and Rivers yelling.

"Run! Don't you dare come in here, you run!" He yells as more grunts come from down the hall.

I snatch my .38 from the table drawer and go to rush out the door but I stop. I can't just leave him here, he's my friend, practically my brother. I run to the kitchen and see the back door is now wide open with the two men are fighting outside. The man swiftly kicks Rivers in the ribs, causing him to fall on the ground. He turns to head back into the house, but Rivers grabs him by the ankle forcing him to stop. My eyes meet briefly with the foreign man and I take that as my cue to get the hell out of here.

I rush back out the front door and into the woods, pushing myself to go as far and fast as I can away from the house. These woods have always felt like a safe place to me since my wolf and I have spent countless hours running through them. I start to slow down after a little while and then come to a stop to listen. I slowly survey the area, trying to pick out any noises or sounds that are unfamiliar. After several minutes of hearing nothing, I decide to keep going at a slower pace.

The pain in my lower body is starting to get more and more intense as I continue to walk but I know I can't go back home right now. I find a large fallen tree and decided to find cover behind it as I sit down and lean by back against the wood. My body is burning and my clothes are soaked in sweat from the running and the oncoming heat.

Darkness has started to fall as the burning continues to get more and

more intense. Pain rips through my body and it feels as though a knife has been stabbed into my gut. I try to stifle a scream and thankfully only a whimper comes out as I clutch my stomach. It's so much worse than last time and I'm not sure how many more times I'll be able to go through this.

Suddenly, a hand covers my mouth and my eyes widen in fear. I try to scream but only muffled cries come out as I try to jerk away. The body behind me moves with mine as I try to jump up and their other hand goes to grab my arm. I quickly snatch it back and my elbow connects with his face as his grip on me releases.

"Fuck." He growls out and I freeze. I know that voice.

I spin around to see Alex spitting blood onto the ground.

"I wasn't expecting that. I was just trying to keep you from screaming when I came up on you. What the hell are you doing out here? Are you okay?" He asks looking concerned but I'm still trying to figure out where the hell he came from.

"There's been an attack. Someone broke into my house but Rivers was fighting him off and told me to run. A few days ago we heard something was going to happen on the next full moon so I haven't gone back." I try to say quickly.

He takes a step towards me and reaches out as I take a step back.

"Wait. Why are you here?" I ask, still very skeptical of his presence.

I don't have a good feeling about this.

Chapter Comments



