

Chapter 33

Nicola's POV

"He went to Karnikey," Rivers says as he begins to pull out packaged food from the cupboards in the kitchen.

"The Fae Kingdom?"

"Yeah."

"What, why? Does he have a death wish?" I ask as I start to place everything into one of our packs.

"He was a bit reluctant to tell me and we're going to need to be quick if we want to leave. I'm pretty sure he knows what we're up to and hinted that he's giving us a head start. I know he's trying to stay loyal to Zander, who isn't going to be happy about the fact that we're going after him, but he's also worried. It's obvious from the lack of sleep he's been getting."

I nod and within an hour we're all packed up.

I let Rivers lead the way since he knows more about where the Fae Kingdom is than I do. I've only ever heard rumors about it. Neither of us have said much on the journey but thankfully the silence between us isn't awkward as we continue to walk.

Freya has awakened with a new determination to find our mate, my wolf feeling more active than she has in awhile. I've practically been sick since he's left and I was actually able to eat something this morning without it feeling like it was going to come back up. I'm still extremely worried, but at least now we're doing something about it instead of just waiting around in the house.

"Have you tried mind-linking him? Your connection reaches farther than mine since you're mated." Rivers breaks the silence.

"Yeah. I've tried numerous times within the last 24 hours but I can't get

through. I can feel us getting closer to him though." I say back and he nods.

"What do you think was so urgent that he needed to get there right away?" I stare at the rocky soil that has begun to overtake the surroundings.

"Bombs." He doesn't bother to look at me as he speaks.

"Like infused with magic?" I try to keep my voice calm and unconcerned, but let's face it. I'm freaking out.

"Yep." He pops the 'p' at the end showing he's just flabbergasted about the whole thing as I am.

I take a deep breath in and exhale slowly. Something doesn't sound right about this and I'm not the only one who thinks so.

"Do you have your armor on?" I ask after another hour of silence.

"Yeah."

I nod in acknowledgement as I look towards the horizon at the sun setting.

"Should we set up camp for the night?" I ask.

He looks up at the sky and sighs.

"Yeah we probably should. We need a good rest and if we leave early, we should reach our destination before noon."

When I wake up the next morning, half on my body is sprawled out on top of Rivers and he has a leg draped over my stomach, pressing against my bladder. Heavy snores fill the tent and I prop myself up to glare at him.

"For goddess sake." I mutter. "Wake up." I smack him on his chest and his eyes slowly open as he groans.

"Good thing there isn't anyone within 10 miles of here or we'd be dead you snore so damn loud." I throw his shirt into his face.

"Sorry!" He says exasperated. "I never sleep on my back but you fell asleep on me and I didn't want to move you."

"Oh don't blame this on me." I get up and unzip the tent to step out into the warm morning air.

After a few minutes, Rivers steps outside fully dressed. I head back into the tent to get ready while he starts to break down our temporary camp. As I stuff dirty clothes into my backpack, I try to focus on the bond that links my mate and I together. I can feel a slight buzz in our connection, letting me know that I'm getting closer to him. My eyes close as I think of Zander and I'm met with the image of his piercing green eyes. My heart rate starts to pick up and I'm finding it harder to catch my breath as he stares back at me.

His gaze is hard and stern as he looks at me but his focus suddenly shifts away, as if searching for something, and then landing back on me. I can feel a silent plea in his gaze but I can't make out what it is. Run? Help? It's like I'm having an out of body experience, my wolf completely connected to his. I'm pulled from whatever the hell that was when a hand firmly grabs my shoulder.

"What's going on?" Rivers asks and I realize I'm panting hard.

"I'm- I'm not sure. I think I just connected with Zander. It seemed like he's running." Concern washes over me as I think about him in trouble. "Come on let's go." I grab my things and rush out of the tent.

We finish packing up the rest of our things in less than 4 minutes and quickly start making our way towards Karnikey. My anxiety is at an all time high as we hike through the rocky terrain and I continue trying to mind link Zander every few mins.

Rivers arm suddenly shoots out, signaling for me to stop as we both come to a halt. I slowly survey the area for danger as I take in the eerily quite surroundings. The sound of yelling soon floods my thoughts and interrupts the silence around me. I quickly realize that Zander has opened our connection and everything comes in like a flood.

"RUN!! NICOLA RUN NOW!!" I hear my mate's voice scream in my head.

Confusion and alarm washes over me as I look at Rivers.

"What?" He says wide eyed.

"Zander... He. told us to run." I say to him as I hear footsteps quickly come up behind me.

I spin around to see three men quickly approaching. A sadistic grin is plastered across the face of the man that's two steps ahead of the other two.

"Well now, this is too easy." His words laced with amusement. "If I knew you were going to come to me, I wouldn't have sent my men after you all those weeks ago."

A growl erupts from behind me before I see Rivers launch himself at the guys and the two standing in the back step up to meet his attack. Punches are thrown as the Fae try their best to keep him preoccupied and I go to lunge forward to assist when a figure steps in front of me.

When I look up, I'm met with harsh, dark purple eyes who I know can only belong to one man.

Rand.

I turn and try to run but a hand quickly grabs me around the waist, dragging me backwards. My self defensive training I've had over the years kicks in and I begin to fight back on instinct. My elbow flies backwards to connect with his nose and I can hear the crunching of bone.

"Fucking bitch!" He yells and I scramble to get away.

His other hand wraps around my neck and I can feel my air supply close as his grips tightens on my throat.

"Sorry Luna, it's nothing personal. Let's just say, I have a score to settle with a certain alpha king."

I struggle against him but it's no use as I soon feel a blade slide into my back between my ribs.

I gasp for air as I drop to my knees, the pain an excruciating burn.

"NOOO!!!" I hear a roar as my sight becomes blurry and black spots pepper my vision.

Strong arms wrap around me and the most wonderful scent floods my senses, causing a soft smile to spread on my lips. My mate.

I can no longer focus on anything but him as I'm held tightly in his arms. I've craved him so much over the last few weeks and having him here right now is like heaven. I no longer feel the pain but there's a tug at my chest as a tear drop falls onto my cheek. I don't want to let go but it feels suiting to be able to die in his arms, to finally be at peace and know he's okay.

"I love you." I raise my hand to touch the familiar skin of my destined love before the darkness pulls me under.

Chapter Comments



