

Chapter 34

Zander's POV

I've been running for days trying to get Rand and his men off of my trail. I knew he realized I was there watching him and his son and I should of immediately left his kingdom the first chance I got. Instead, I stuck around for a few more days hoping to get information while they were busy tracking me down.

Every time I begin to make headway towards territory lines, my path gets cut off, forcing me to circle back and cover my tracks. I told Kane I would be home two days ago but I haven't been able to contact him in almost a week. I'm sure by now he's realized something went wrong. What's even worse is that for the last two days I swear it's felt like Nicola has been trying to connect with me.

I haven't allowed anything to go through, in fear it's a trap from Rand. The Fae have always toyed with dark magic and I'm afraid it's just a spell they're trying to use to track my location. Many times I've considered letting the connection through, because it's felt so real, but there should no way she's close enough to me right now for it to actually be her. At least she better not be. Thoughts of my mate constantly linger in the back of my mind and I'm trying everything I can to get back to her again.

As I come upon the crest of the hill, I stop and crouch behind a broken piece of rock to take a drink. I catch my breath, about to start circling back again, when I hear the crunching of footsteps behind me. Turning around quickly, I'm met with a hard blow to the face.

Another fist flies towards me as I stumble, but I throw up my arm and block his attack at the last minute. There's a pause from the man as I take a step back to get a good look at my attacker. The Fae in front of me looks young and I can tell by the slight nervousness in his eyes that he's inexperienced. I shake my head at the fact that they had someone so green go after me, knowing full and well he'd be walking to his death.

Shifting into my wolf form, I lunge at the man's neck and I can see the absolute fear in the poor guy's eyes. As fast as I can, I clamp down, instantly breaking his neck. There was no need to drag out the kill and make him suffer since it was obvious he had no clue he was being sent to die.

My heightened senses in wolf form pick up on more movement about a half mile down the hill. I look over the peak to see three men making their way in my direction, one of them being Rand. His hard gaze meets mine and a small grin tugs at the corners of his mouth knowing he's caught me.

Shit.

I'm torn between trying to make a run for it or prepping myself for a fight but I feel screwed either way. I can definitely hold my own in a battle but going up against three of these men will be a challenge, even for me. Running also seems pointless since they'll easily be able to track me down now that they've spotted me and I'll just end up wearing myself down more. Figuring I have no other option, I get myself ready for their attack.

Suddenly, two more men come barreling up behind me and I leap into the air, narrowly missing the blade aimed at my torso. I growl as I land before I swipe at one, knocking the knife out of his hands along with tearing open his forearm. He yells in pain as he falls down and the other kicks me hard in the ribs. I yelp and turn around, latching onto his thigh as I sling him into his partner.

Both men are stunned as they lay on the ground and it doesn't take me long to finish them off. My head then snaps to my left where Rand and his two men are approaching at a steady pace. He has a gleam in his eye as he slowly claps, amused by the fact that I just killed two of his soldiers.

Sick bastard.

"Nicely done King." He grins at me. "I've been wondering when you'd finally show up."

I stare at him, not bothering to reply, as I calculate what his next move

might be.

"I'm guessing you thought we wouldn't notice you're little surveillance. At first, we were just going to shoot it down, but then I thought I could use it to lure you in. A little glamor magic made it look like we had nuclear reactors all over the place and I knew it was only a matter of time before you came to investigate yourself after we killed a few of your wolves."

My mind is spinning as he talks. This whole thing was a fucking trap to get me here and I walked right into it.

I lower my head and snarl in warning as the wind around us picks up. The three men look at each other curiously and a smile soon spreads widely across Rand's face. All of my muscles tense as the scent of my mate is carried through the air, flooding my nose. She's close. One of them takes advantage of my lack of focus and hits me hard in the side of the head with whatever blunt object in his hand. My vision starts to go black and I stagger to the side before hitting the ground.

"Find her." I hear a voice command and Liam whimpers in my head.

"No." My plea comes out as a strangled whisper as I desperately try to fight the darkness that is threatening to pull me under.

I struggle to pick myself off the ground as the world around me spins and I try to gain back my equilibrium. Stumbling and falling back down again, I growl out in frustration, wishing I could run after them and protect my mate. My mind tingles and it feels like Nicola is trying break through my barriers and mind link me again. Realizing it's been her this whole time, I immediately open up our connection and yell to her.

"RUN!! NICOLA, RUN NOW!!"

Fighting off the dizziness, I begin to head towards the direction of my mate, my wolf following her scent. Panic has settled over me and the primal need to protect what's mine is in overdrive as I race across the hard ground. Her scent has become much stronger and I know she has to be close by now. A sudden pain rips through me and I plunge face first into the dirt as a blazing fire eats at my back. I quickly realize, however, the pain isn't from a wound I've sustained.

I let out a piercing howl as I rush forward to see Nicola's body crumple to the ground, the Fae already retreating and leaving her to die. My heart is beating frantically as I approach her and reach out to cradle her in my arms. A smile slowly splays across her face once she realizes it's me and tears start to roll down my cheeks.

"I love you." She says as she reaches out to touch me.

"No baby, please no." I sob but her eyes have already started to roll to the back of her head.

"We need to stop the bleeding!" Rivers yells as he runs up to me.

I set her down and rip open her shirt to reveal the gapping wound that is pouring blood. By the way the flesh looks and the amount of blood she is losing, I can tell the knife they used was dipped in silver.

"You need to cut your hand open Zander. Your blood is stronger and will help close up the wound." Rivers quickly grabs my wrist and slices my palm open with a pocket knife he pulled from his cargo pants.

"We can't close it up, there's silver still in there and it'll continue to poison her." I stare down at her face that has started to grow pale. Too pale.

"We don't have a choice. If you don't do it now she's going to die of blood loss in the next couple minutes."

My body shakes as I press my bloody hand against her torn flesh, trying to help close the laceration. My palm burns as slivers of silver enter my blood stream, but I could give two shits about that right now. As the gash slowly closes, I bring my fingers to Nicola's neck and check for a pulse. I can feel a faint beat, telling me she's still alive but just barely. Her breathing has slowed and become extremely shallow and I know she probably won't make it very long if she doesn't get medical attention soon.

"We need to go." I say to Rivers as I scoop my mate into my arms and start running toward our pack lines.

Rivers and I take turns carrying her as we run the whole way back, not

stopping to take a break. Nicola's life is barely hanging on by a thread when we finally cross the boarder to our pack lands and I feel mentally and physically exhausted. I can feel our bond flicker in and out as she teeters on the brink of death, her skin turning cold and clammy.

"Please don't leave me angel." I whisper to her and pray that she'll be able to pull through.

Chapter Comments



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