

Chapter 39

Zander's POV

Faster dammit, faster.

I force each leg to propel me forward as I try to eat up as much ground as possible in my human form. Liam is clawing to be released but I know I can't shift yet. As I get further into the territory, I can see hundred of Fae getting closer to the pack house. My blood feels like ice when I see Rand push through the front door and enter our home.

Nicola.

I link Kane and Rivers, giving them the go ahead to march forward and take on the Fae army that has begun to push deeper into the pack lands. As I approach the house, I can see three men who are guarding the front door entrance. I decide to go around back to where my office is located so I can sneak in from a different location. My heart races as I think about my mate inside the house alone with Rand. She has gotten significantly stronger over the last few weeks but I know she'd never be able to outrun him, let alone fight him. If I don't get to her in time I'll never be able to forgive myself.

My steps are silent as I press my back to the brick wall and move towards my office window. I close my eyes and try to control my breathing and racing heart so I can listen for movement inside. Hearing nothing, I decide to peak in. My eyes search the space and I can see my desk drawer open along with the door to the hall. She must have heard them coming and grabbed the gun.

Good.

I feel slightly better knowing that she's at least armed.

Determining I can't enter without breaking the glass and revealing my location, I look around for another entrance. I decide my best option is to climb up and enter through our bedroom. My claws extend and I dig

them into the hard brick surface as I make my way up. Once I reach the window, I look in before sliding the glass panel open to swing inside. The bedroom door is closed and her scent smells as if she hasn't been in the room for well over an hour.

The silence through the house feels eerie as I begin to make my way through the halls. All of my senses are on high alert but I can neither smell nor hear anyone else in the building.

Where the fuck are you.

My steps get quicker as my desperation to find her starts to rise. The emptiness of the house begins to fill my chest with dread and my heart clenches tightly. A loud bang from the front door has me sprinting down the stairs to the large foyer. Yells are heard outside and I can feel my self control slipping the closer I get to the source of the noise.

I grab the door and rip it off the hinges as I lunge forward into the air. My claws come out and strike one of the men across the chest, causing him to scream out in pain. Panic and anger has me seeing red and my canines extend to bite down on the mans throat, killing him. A blow to the side causes me to spin around and face another guard.

A growl erupts from my chest, warning him of the danger he's in and I look around to see two more men approaching me quickly, ready to fight. One of them is just another soldier, while the other is Rand.

A sinister smile is plastered on his face as he steps towards me.

"Where is she?!" I growl between clenched teeth.

He laughs.

"Oh, now this is funny. I was about to ask you the same thing."

I look between the three men and realize I'm cornered. However, there's a chance I might be able to escape them if I shift so I begin to take a few steps back, preparing to leap.

"Dad!" A voice cries out.

The horror on Rand's face has me searching in confusion for the

source. Fifty yards away is a small boy running frantically towards us, eyes filled with betrayal.

"You- you lied to me!" He yells as stops a few feet in front of the Fae King.

"Locke..." Rand reaches out to him but by the boy moves away.

"No!! You promised! You promised me you changed but you haven't! She told me everything!" Tears run down his face as he yells.

"Who told you?" He raises an eyebrow.

"She said her name was Nicola." He glares at him.

My eyes widen and I stop breathing as I realize the boy knows where my mate is. I frantically look around, trying to catch a glimpse of where she might be at when a strong fist connects with my temple, forcing me to stumble. Hands quickly go around each arm and I feel the coldness of metal being pressed against my neck, before it starts to burn. Silver.

"I wouldn't move if I were you." Rand snarls.

"Kill me if you have to, just don't hurt her." I spit at him.

"Oh now you know I can't do that. I don't just want to kill you, I want to destroy you." He throws me a malicious smile showing his pearly white teeth.

"Where is she son?"

The boy looks completely panicked as he turns and runs.

I feel a shove from behind as I'm forced to walk forward, following the child.

"Let's go." A voice growls at me.

Locke starts to fade from view as I resist against the hands pushing me along. I already know where he's headed, but they don't.

"Fuck!" Another blow to the face has me spitting out blood.

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"Walk faster," Rand glares at me.

"Locke!" He calls out for the boy.

I look around and realize we're getting closer to the training center and there's not a doubt in my mind that this is where Nicola is hiding out. Knowing her current condition, I'm not sure how she managed to get this far, but I'm certain she's in there since she wasn't at the house.

"LOCKE!!" He yells louder.

We're about a half mile from the building and I'm praying to the goddess that the boy doesn't show back up. I'm hoping he just kills me here and now before they have a chance to find her. I won't be able to live with the pain of watching them hurt her.

"Just kill me." I shoot danger into the back of his head.

"Oh no, you're not getting away that easy. I'm going to make sure you suffer. Show your people see what a pathetic and hopeless coward you are." He sneers.

"If anyone is the coward it's you. Hell, your own son doesn't even want anything to do with you right now." I spit.

That earns me a punch to the gut which causes me to double over. I get another jab to the ribs and a kick to the back of my legs, forcing me to drop to my knees. I keep my head low and my eyes on the grass in front of me as I hear footsteps approach.

"Stop!" I hear the little voice cry out.

I look up to see Locke grabbing his father's arm as he tries to take a step towards me.

"Stay back boy!" He slaps him hard across the face.

"Don't dad!" He tries to talk through the tears.

"It needs to be done." Rand raises his gun and points it at my chest.

"No it doesn't! Why do you have to do this?" Desperation is in his voice

as he talks.

"You wouldn't understand. I've tried to ignore the others, Locke, but they're right. You're weak. You're not yet fit to rule yet and it's time you've learned reality. This will teach you a valuable lesson." He cocks back the pistol in his hand and aims it at me.

I close my eyes and try to prepare myself for the inevitable. Warmth spreads across my body as I picture her smile and eyes. I can almost see her in front of me and smell her scent as I try to focus on the one thing I've lived for these past few months. She's the greatest thing that's ever happened to me and I don't regret a single moment spent with her. I know that there's a good chance I wouldn't be in this predicament if it I never met her, but that doesn't even matter. Before her I wasn't truly living, so it only makes sense that I would die for her now.

"I love you." I whisper before pain flares through my chest.

Chapter Comments

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