

Chapter 41

Zander's POV

The pain only lasts a second and it seems like hours have gone by before I open my eyes and realize I'm still alive.

Holy shit I'm still alive.

My mind reels as I look at the dead man in front of me with a bullet through his head. His purple eyes have already started to fade into a hazy blue as the men around him stare in shock. I pat my chest and realize the bullet had gone straight through him and hit me, but the armor I was wearing prevented it from actually penetrating my skin. I look around for one of the warriors or maybe even my Beta or Gamma but no one is in sight.

The two men are unsure of what to do as they watch the young boy kneel next to his father. He's silent as he looks down at him before he reaches into his shirt and snaps off the necklace that was around the King's neck.

He stuffs it in his pocket before looking up at me. "You're the Alpha King." It wasn't a question but a statement.

His face looks sad but I'm shocked to see there aren't anymore tears. I nod to him.

"And you must be the Fae King." I say with a gentle smile.

The two Fae next to him must take this as a threat because they both suddenly lunge at me. I quickly move out of the way, trying to avoid anymore confrontation.

"I'm not going to hurt him." I say loudly and they pause for a second before turning to him questioningly.

"It's okay, I know he won't." His voice is still soft and I know it must be hard for him right now, even if his father was a prick.

"You know nothing!" One begins to shout at him. "You're nothing but a child, incapable of knowing who this man really is, let alone rule a kingdom!" He takes step towards him before I snatch him by the neck.

"You will not touch him!" I spit out as my hand closes tighter, cutting off his circulation.

He claws at my hand, desperate for air, but I give him no such satisfaction. I squeeze tighter to get my point across before finally releasing him to drop on the ground. I turn towards the other man but he lowers his head in submission.

There's a moment of silence as I look around. Locke looks a little taken aback and slightly scared and but he doesn't make a move to run from me.

"I met your mate. She's nice." He says softly.

'Nicer than you' is what he meant to say but I take no offense to it.

My wolf stirs at the mention of her and I look down at the dead king, instantly realizing this was her doing.

Okay maybe not nicer.

"Where is she?" I ask.

He points up toward the training building.

I shake my head in disbelief. The building is a good distance away and there's no way anyone else but her would have been able to make that shot.

Another man comes running up to us, causing my wolf and I to stand on guard and I recognize him as Lucious, Rand's second in command. There's not much I know about him but I do know that the little king won't stand a chance if he decides to become power hungry and claim the throne. The thought of it makes me clench my fists in anger and I prepare myself for another fight.

"Locke!" He yells as he runs up to us.

He quickly takes in the scene in front of us before his eyes land on me in fury.

"You know-" I glance over at Locke "when I said you'd make a great leader someday, I didn't think it would be so soon."

"Me either." He says.

I hate the possibility of another taking the crown from him. He's so young and I know he's not fit to rule now, but someday he will be. And I want to make sure that someday actually happens.

"We can provide support until you're old enough to take up the crown." I offer.

"We can provide our own support." Lucious snaps. "We don't need the help from the dogs. I'll mentor Locke until he becomes of age and can take over the throne."

I can feel his hatred towards me but am also aware of his protectiveness and loyalty towards the future king. Though I'm not sure how great of a teacher he'll be, I'm pretty sure he won't try to assassinate him for the title.

"Alright." I nod and back down.

"Well sir, if you ever need anything, call me." I say to Locke.

"Let's go." Lucious growls as he quickly grabs Locke and marches away.

I take off sprinting towards Nicola. Liam is going crazy in my mind, desperate to find our mate and to make sure she's safe. I barrel through the door and begin to make my way up the stairs to her office but panic starts to course through me when I don't see her in there.

Where is she?

Liam starts to push to the surface and we trail her scent up the stairs and to the roof access hatch. How the hell has she made it this far?

Her scent gets stronger as I climb up the ladder and push open the door at the top. My heart races as my eyes scan the roof top and am

met with the most beautiful woman I've ever seen.

Nicola is propped up against the ledge, gun across her lap, and staring back at me. She looks so innocent and sweet but it's a trap. The woman is deadly.

"Zander." She tries to stand but struggles.

Rushing over, I sweep her into my arms and kiss her. I kiss her lips, then her nose, her cheeks, foreheads, eyelids, every inch of her face before landing back on her lips. She giggles as I squeeze her tighter to me and bury my face in her neck.

"I can't stand the thought of losing you." I whisper.

"I was so scared, I thought I had killed you too." She says as I scoop her in my arms.

I carry her back to the pack house, setting her down once we get to the front entrance so she can go ahead inside. There's a few things I need to clean up before I can really say this nightmare is over.

"I'll be there in a minute." I place a soft kiss on her lips and she clings onto me.

She pulls me deeper into the kiss and her tongue grazes my bottom lip causing me to growl.

"Baby..." I say huskily. "I'll be right back I promise."

She lets me go but the look in her eyes say that's the last thing she wants to do. I'm tempted to say 'fuck it' and haul her up to the bedroom, but in my moment of contemplation, Kane links me.

"Majority of the Fae have crossed the border and are headed back. I'm seeing the rest of them out, along with the little king."

"I'll be right there."

I run and catch up to Kane as he tails the last of the Fae army. The soldiers look confused, but relieved nonetheless as they march towards home. Everyone seems thankful for the little bloodshed that happened

today.

I stop as I approach the invisible line that separates the ECHO kingdom from the rest of the world. Lucious goes to grab the boy when he turns to face me, but Locke gives him a look that makes me chuckle internally.

No. He won't be a pushover.

"Best of luck." I say as I reach my hand out for him to shake and he grips mine.

His eyes widen slightly as he feels the slip of paper I've pressed into his palm and I'm thankful Lucious is behind him or he would have definitely caught on to what was happening. I give the kid a wink which causes the uptight dick to finally snap.

"That's enough!" He snatches Locke backward.

I watch them walk off until they're no longer in view before I turn to go back. Even though I wish we could support the kid more, and possibly form an alliance in the future, I know he'll be okay. I had scribbled a short note with my number on a piece of paper that I gave to him in case he ever needs to call on us in the future.

For the first time in a long time, there's a peacefulness in the air. There's no wars brewing, no threats, no pack issues, and I have the world's greatest mate waiting for me back home. Just thinking of her makes me smile.

I can't wait to get back to her so I do what anyone else would do.

I take off running.

Chapter Comments

