

Their Hidden Princess – Chapter 11

...but death did not come.

Instead, I felt the full weight of a man on top of me. My arms were pinned down besides my head. I felt the hips of someone move under me. I looked up and was met with Kairos's piercing gaze. I started to struggle immediately.

"Clever girl," Kairos tutted. He was unphased by my fidgeting. "But not clever enough."

"Let me go, Kairos," I said. My voice shook in fear but I still had to fight back. I had to get out of his hold

"No," he hissed teeth bared towards me. "You don't belong here!" He lifted my shoulders and slammed them back into the dirt. It was enough force to cause my head to spin.

"You are wolfless," he spat at me. "Weak and defiant. You know no respect towards the High Alpha's of our time! I should gut you for even attempting to speak to me. This hunt was my plan to get to alone. To peel you apart."

He dropped his mouth towards my ear. I felt like I was about to be consumed by him. My chest rose and fell rapidly against him. He chuckled as I try to fight against him again.

"To find out what makes you come apart," he said, voice a tenacious whisper.

I weighed my options as quickly as I could. I could give in. I could submit and face the utter humiliation of them realizing I was a royal.! could give up.

Or, could try.

I could distract Kairos enough to get the upper hand. I could fight him off and run back out of the forest. I could find a way to win this year's hunt.

And so that's what I decided. I was never one to give up. I was stubborn as all. I'd rise to the top of the throne and I'd smite Kairos and all his little stupid friends as soon as I got up there. So I tried my best to distract him by goading him.

I poked the bear:

"Aren't you like a potential King consort?" I said, as fearless as I could.

What do you think the Queen would say to you pinning down a wolfless? I know Maximus was already told off."

He paused for a moment. It was the longest amount of time he'd taken before snarking a reply back at me. Finally, he snapped slamming my shoulders against the ground again.

"The Queen is none of your concern, wolfless!" he spat. "You will never know how it is to be a queen!"

"Probably not," I said. My head was starting to feel light. The bramble besides my head had scraped into my skull and I felt something dripping down my temple. But still, I fought.

"But isn't there a chance she won't even pick you?" I fumbled to get the words out of my mouth but they still made sense.

"The princess, that is."

"Do you not understand the power of the crown, wolfless?" Kairos spat.

"They are a political tool. The Queen will force the princess to pick whichever suitor is her true mate."

Didn't I know that!

"This princess, in particular, is bound to be powerful," Kairos continued.

"It is a power that is best suited with equal power. One that I possess." "What do you mean?" At that point, I was genuinely confused and asking questions. What did he mean I was "bound to be powerful?" Victoria had told me nothing of my power. For God's sake, I was wolfless!

Kairos blinked at me. His grip lessened on my wrists. I thought about scrambling away in his confusion but I was far too curious of my supposed future to run.

"After the war," he started. "A prophecy arose. It told of the heir to Queen Victoria Luna's throne. She was to be the dawn of a new era of wolf. Wolves that were unrestrained and had full control over themselves. The prophecy also spoke of her mate. He was a strong, High Alpha with the ability to siphon the heir's power for himself."

He grinned down at me and I felt my heart stutter. It was entirely unfriendly. "There are only five High Alpha packs. Thus, only five High Alpha heirs for the princess to choose from," he paused and his grin grew wider. "I am one of them."

Fear washed over me.

I was the princess the prophecy spoke about. I was the dawn of the wolves and yet here I was, wolfless and trapped under the grasp of a maniac who was trying to steal my power while also kill me. This was worse than I had imagined.

I yanked back from Kairos's grasp but he held on tighter. I yelped in pain as his palms squeezed my wrists with a force I'd never felt.

"Ask me what I'm going to do with that power, clever girl," he said as I tried to break free. I didn't answer, focusing on getting out of his grasp.

He leaned forwards to brush his lips against my ear. Against my judgement, a tingle rushed down my body to my toes.

"If you're still wolfless at eighteen," he whispered. "Ill kill you."

I gasped and yanked my head away from him. He laughed in response, his teeth pearly and his eyes the deep gold of a killer.

"The princess will never chose you," I spat back at him. "The Queen knows how fucked up you are. She'd never let you kill innocent wolfless!"

He slammed me back into the ground a third time. I felt the air escape from my lungs in a puff. I choked on my own spit as I felt my vision come in and out of focus. He was so strong. I needed to get out now. I* pretended to go limp in Kairo's arms.

Slowly, his grip lessened. Then, I felt him sit back on his heels. I took that as my cue and kicked my foot as hard as possible into his groin.

He grunted and staggered backwards, glaring at me with his deep gold eyes. I pushed myself as fast I could manage and took off. I flew through the forest at breakneck speed. I don't know how I was doing it.

I felt leaves and trees lodge themselves in my arms and tug my skin open. But I didn't care. I couldn't care.

Once again, I pushed my legs to their brink. Finally, I emerged from the woods in front of my dorm. I could've cried in that moment. I ran up to the door and tugged. As I leaned back, the world started spinning.

Slowly, the colors of the dorm turned to darkness.

I landed on the ground with a thud. I blinked a few times to try and get myself to stand up. Then I felt arms gently wrap around me and a few muffled screams.

And once again, I was back in the silent darkness.

The world was dark for a little. It was nice though, peaceful. I had no fear of being attacked by a savage. The silence comforted me.

I was all ruined as I felt my eyes peel open to a bright white light.

I cringed away from it immediately. My eyes burned. I felt stiff and sore all over. Moving away from the light made the pain radiate across my body. Instead of screaming though all I could do was grunt.

“Ouch,”

It came out all gravely and low. Like someone had poured sand down my throat while I was asleep. I heard a low chuckle from my left. My right eye flew open.

Professor Lunerly was sitting in a chair next to the bed I was propped up in. His red robes were gone and replaced with a simple, collarless button-down and a pair of dark trousers. A sliver of skin was visible between the edge of the trouser and the top of his black penny loafer where it rested on his opposite knee. Something about it made me shiver.

“Good morning,” Lunerly mocked.

“Good morning,” I choked out. “Is it really morning?”

“No,” Lunerly sat up straight. His shirt was unbuttoned precariously low and I wondered what I pulled him from. “It’s about ten-thirty.

You’ve been asleep for around eight hours.”

“Holy shit,” I breathed before trying to push myself to be fully sat up. I immediately cringed in pain and sunk back.

Professor Lunerly was on his feet in a second. His white-gold eyes were scanning all over me. “Careful,” he said gently. His hand went to my shoulder and I was immediately soothed. I heaved a sigh. “God, I feel like I got hit by a bus,” I said.

*You looked like it,” Lunerly said. “I did investigate but I couldn’t figure out before that this was Mr. Moonraiser’s doing.”

I bit my bottom lip. I knew what was going to happen if I ratted out Kairos’s behavior. The target on my forehead was going to get even bigger. Before I could even speak, Lunerly’s phone went off.

“Excuse me,” he said as he fished it out of his pocket. He stared at it, blankly, for a moment then handed it to me. “I believe this is for you.”

I knitted my eyebrows together and gently took the phone. I looked down and saw the letters “VL” on the caller ID. It was Victoria. I braced myself with a sigh before I hit the answer button and brought the phone to my ear.

“Mother,”

“Zora!” Victoria said back. “Valetin told me you were in the infirmary.

This is utterly inappropriate behavior for the crown. And from a potential crown consort!”

“I’m fine,” I said sharply. Of course she only cared about the crown. I ran my hand down my face. “Thanks for asking.”

“Gods,” Victoria swore. “I – I should’ve asked that first. But, are you?

Okay, that is?”

“Again, I’m fine,” I said. “Sore muscles and a few scratches and scrapes.

Nothing a band aid won’t fix.”

“But it shouldn’t need a band aid,” Victoria protested. “You’re the heir to the throne, Zora. I can’t see you – nay allow you to be hurt again and again!”

“I’m sorry I’m not the warrior you were!” I threw back. “What are you talking about?” Victoria said. I could hear her worry in her voice. “What did Valetin tell you?”

“He told me nothing!” I snapped. “It’s in the back of the goddamn handbook how you led the wolves to victory from the vampires. I’m sorry I’m not some valiant warrior but you know just as well as I do that if I don’t earn this myself, the rest of the school will never respect me.”

“They would if they knew who you were!” Victoria screeched. She sighed and dropped her voice a bit lower. “If you’d just accept one of the men as your mate-

“No, mom,” I snapped. “I’m not marrying one of those dickbags!”

“But what if they are your fated mate?” Victoria tried.

The fuck was a fated mate?

“Fated what?” I said into the phone. Professor Lunerly fidgeted besides me. I put that away in my mental files to figure out later.

“Fated mate,” Victoria sighed. “I guess you haven’t been to that class yet

” was too busy being attacked,” I snapped. “My bad.”

Victoria sighed again. She’d finally given up on trying to fight me. I could hear her rubbing her eyes through the phone.

“A fated mate,” she said gently. “Is different than a chosen mate. It is someone who the universe has destined you to be with. People who are with their chosen mates are said to be able to awaken their deeper, more wonderous powers.”