



124 A COVER UP (3)

Erik massages his temple, unsure of what to say. 1

"We believe that the person who killed Alexander is the actual person who sent the assassin." Elena said.

Then Erik said the opened windows. "So this was how he went out?"

"He probably carried the body out this way." She said. "Because there is no sign of it."

"But carrying the body would be too heavy, wouldn't it?" Loren asked.

"Unless." Elena said as she walked down to the table. She touched it and fingered the top of the table.

She smelled it. "It's dust. She was disintegrated into nothing. There isn't a body anymore."

Erik stepped out of the room and returned with two guards.

"Gather as many men as you can to search the down floors. He escaped through the window." He told them.

They nodded and left.

Erik paced back and forth, his hands on his waist.

"This doesn't make any sense." He said. "If the person had already gone through so much as using effects to cover up their tracks and set up Xaden, then why would he bother killing him? It doesn't make sense." 3

He looked at them. "If I set someone up and went through this much length to have myself hidden, then I won't kill him. Because killing him just defies everything that I wanted done. Killing him is telling them that it wasn't Alexander who sent the assassin. Killing him is telling him that it was someone else in the pack."

Loren and Elena looked at each other.

"I was thinking the same thing," Elena said.

Loren was pouting and still mourning the loss of his Lyrus.

"What's wrong with him?" Erik asked, giving him an eye.

"Something important to him was stolen, too." Elena said.

"I'll have to go down to meet Xaden, and Xaden wants everyone down in the hall," Erik said.



"Look, I don't know how it might be. But like you said, I won't kill someone. I wanted to carry the consequences of my actions if I were in the real person's shoes. But the only reason why I would kill Alexander is if he had something more on me. If there was something that was more threatening than even the gaze of the assassin shifted on someone else." Loren said wisely. "Alexander knew or had something, and it was much better to kill him than let that secret spill. That's what I think."

Erik resonated it with himself and it made so much sense to him.

So did it to Elena.

"We have to go. We'll figure the rest of it later." Erik said, and they were all forced out as the bells continued to ring.

Once they had gone and then Loren's quarters had been locked, the hooded figure who had been stuck against the ceiling landed very gently on his feet. 2

He had opened the windows to make it seem like he had gone out through the window.

The hooded figure had heard everything and knew they were getting on to him faster and



faster.

He hurriedly went to the door and pulled at it, but it was shut.

The figure used some tools to undo the key lock, and he succeeded.

The figure had learned this trick as a child whenever he was naughty and thereby shut up in the room.

He would eventually fiddle with the lock and run out.

Once the door was unlocked, he escaped and ran into the shadows.

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They went down the stairs to the throne room, where all the people in the castle stood angry and murmuring to themselves.

"What the hell does he want now?" An alpha demanded.

"The festival is over, so we should be set free." A woman said.

"It's Xaden. I'm sure his Barbaric ways are still in his head." Someone said.

They all hissed and complained bitterly.

As Erik and the rest came in, other members of the royal family came in too.

"What the devil is the meaning of this?" The King asked.

The Queen sighed. "Something must have happened. Be patient."

"We have a long ride ahead of us, and the wolf would know we would be returning. They will lay wait." He said.

"No such thing will happen." She told him. "Just let's hear what he has to say."

"Your wife does have a point." Princess Cherry said. "We should wait and see what is the issue."

The King glared at her. "I'm having a discussion with my wife." 4

"Of course, my apologies." Cherry said, and with that, she turned away and left.

The Queen saw it, turned to her husband, and said. "You do need to stop that. Why do you always turn on my sister and be rude to her?"

"She is in exile and isn't who you think she is." He said to her. "You're blinded by her, and I want





you as far away from Cherry as possible.

"Enough!" She snapped at him.

What she didn't realize was that she had shouted so loud that everyone in the entire hall was now quiet and looking at them.

She went on. "I'm the Queen. Cherry is my sister. She was the one who was meant to be Queen. You have no idea how hard it was for me to take the throne from her. From my very own sister when it rightfully belonged to her. Yes, she may have made some mistakes in the past, but she is my sister! And I am Queen! So do not tell me what to do!"

It was then the Queen noticed the silence and saw that they were all paying attention to her in the room.

She held her head up and turned her face away.

The doors were open, and Xaden came in with Aurora by his side.

"What the hell is it you want now, Xaden?" An Alpha demanded from afar.

The King held him and caught him to his side.

"Will you tell me what is going on or not?"

