

128 THE TRAITOR IN OUR MIDST

The spy bumped right into a hooded figure, and then he shrunk back. 1

"You're the one who killed the man." The desert wolf said. "And you smell of my sister." 1

"I've been looking for you." The hooded figure responded.

"What do you want?" He asked. "I'll never work for you!"

Then, the desert spy spat in the face of the hooded figure.

The hooded figure cleaned his eyes and then gave the desert wolf a mighty blow, and he fell to the floor, bleeding.

For someone to hit the desert wolf and almost knock him out, making him nearly defenseless, meant that they were very powerful.

The desert wolf coughed blood on the floor, and then the hooded figure kicked him in the stomach, and he groaned.

It was as if something happened to his bones, and he was now rendered weak and immobile.

It was like all his strength was drained.

The hooded figure hauled him up and held him tight. "Of course, you wouldn't work for me, but it doesn't have to be willingly."

Then the hooded figure's hood fell off, and the desert wolf's face grew wide in shock.

"You." He said. "It's not possible."

The figure smiled and said. "You get to see me before you die. How lucky of you."

Then, the figure pushed him against the wall as the bells chimed.

"I know that Bale sent you here." The figure said. "I know everything that you don't. And you're the perfect liaison because you will be a deterrent for me. Bale sent you to spy on Xaden, and I wonder how that would be."

The desert wolf struggled into his pocket to pick out a blade and was about to commit suicide when the figure immediately stopped him."

"Ah ah ah." The figure said, eyeing the blade and then disposing of it. "You won't be going

anywhere. Thank you for helping and presenting yourself to me."

And then the figure blew some dust into the face of the desert wolf, and he passed out

Jasmine went into the throne room just in time with everyone else and witnessed the commotion.

Alexander was dead, and now Xaden was looking for the one who had killed him.

She saw Loren and Elena whispering to each other from a distance and wanted to meet up with them.

But she saw Damian glaring at her.

Xaden and Erik stepped out, and Jasmine hung on alone.

Lisa and the other she-wolves hung to themselves together .

They other wolves in Xaden's pack where gathered in their small friend groups while Jasmine remained alone as usual. 2

She sat down on the floor and leaned, tired of waiting.

All the other wolves were voicing their complaints about how they were forced to wait.

"Your majesty, it just hit five hours now."
Someone said.

The Queen turned to look at all of them.

They, in turn, were looking up to her for support.

After all, she had said, she would burn down the entire place if he didn't return in five hours.

Before she could say a word, the doors were flung open, and then Xaden stepped in.

"Sorry for the wait." He said. "I had to bring some assistance."

And right behind him was a woman Jasmine had never seen.

As she passed by, the people cleared for her, and Jasmine looked onward.

Then she went to the throne room.

"This is Marie. She is a powerful witch." He waved his hand at her. "Marie will find who killed Alexander." 5

She curtsied, and then she turned to face them.

"My lords and ladies, " she greeted. I will make

prayers to the goddess, and then she will speak to me, and it will reveal who the enemy is here."

Then she closed her eyes and began chanting and soon the air in the wind because fierce and then leaves flew from the outside of the castle.

Then her eyes opened, and bright magic emitted from her, hitting someone in the middle of the room.

There were gasps as the people separated from the one who had been hit.

The guards immediately caught the dark-skinned man and forced him on his knees.

Xaden came down from the throne and looked at him.

"It was you." He said, and he looked him up and down. "You do not belong to my pack, neither does your wolf belong to any other pack here."

The black man looked up at him and spat in his eye.

Xaden cleaned it off.

"You people." He said. "You dirty people killed my sister! I would have coke for you head you were next." 8

Xaden squatted down to the man.

"Your sister did not beg for mercy." He said. "But when I start with you, you will be begging," Xaden promised. "Now tell me? Who sent you?"

"You will have to beat it out of me!" The man said.

Xaden sniffed by him, and then he smiled. "You are from the crescent pack. You smell of Bale."

The desert wolf said nothing.

Xaden gave a bitter nod and rose to his feet.

"Bale sent you." Xaden repeated, nodding his head.

He gave a laugh.

"Bale is a great man, and he will soon bring you down to your knees!" The black man said.

Jasmine stood watching from afar and couldn't believe what he was saying.

"I put Bale down, and yet he sent an assassin to kill and also spy on me," Xaden said. "You are a dead wolf."

"I already knew that long before I came here."

The desert wolf said.

"Is there anything else you would like to give?"

Xaden asked. "Any last words."

Erik came up to Xaden.

"Xaden. Wait, I don't think we should do anything with him yet, he might know-

But Xaden had already used his wolf claws to rip out his head from his body, and the crowd gasped.

The head stumbled and rolled all the way until it landed right at Jasmine's feet.