

130 ELENA'S GOODBYE

Xaden didn't watch as Jasmine was dragged out of the hall and down to the dungeon. 1

He gave all the Alphas present a deathly stare that told them to keep quiet, and they did.

Erik turned to him. "Xaden, you should not have killed him that way. There must have been more."

"You heard her," Xaden said in disgust. "She knew that he was around."

"Something is off about all of this," Erik said. "Do you think Bale would risk his cover of having Jasmine as his spy here? She was ousted outright in the bloody middle of everyone present."

"So what?!" Xaden shot. "Don't forget your place. You're my gamma, but that doesn't mean I have to take orders from you."

"Being your gamma means I prevent you from making rash decisions," Erik said.

"Why are you protecting her? What, you're fucking her now?!" Xaden said bitterly.

Erik's face glimmered in rage. "You will not insult



me."

The hair on his body stood at attention, ready to attack. Erik's eyes brightened, and his status as Alpha heightened.

The same thing happened to Xaden, who was already beyond words angry.

But their men came in between.

"There is no need for a fight," Damian said as he and the other guards separated before it escalated.

Erik jerked himself free from their house and said.

"I'm not doing this!" And then he stormed off.

Xaden swore and walked back up to his throne room.

He stood in front of them all.

"The one who sent the assassin has been discovered," Xaden said. "You are all free to go."

"And Bale?" The King said. "What will you do to him?"

Xaden clenched his jaw.

He knew that he could be allowed to deal Bale

some blows for sending someone to spy on him.

He had broken a rule.

But it would be too easy.

Xaden was going to follow up with his initial plans. 6

Make Jasmine pay.

And worst of all, she had deceived him.

She had lied to him even after he had started to soften.

He cursed under his breath and told himself that he would never be so stupid again!

"I will leave Bale until the full moon," Xaden said.
"And when it's time, I will kill him."

The king looked at him suspiciously, not believing what he was saying.

"So, after what Bale had just done and almost had you killed, are you going to let him get away with it?" The King asked.

"Yes. I will. For the meantime." Xaden said, then turned to the Queen. "I am done with my investigations. I apologize for keeping you waiting. You may leave when you are ready to."

"What about Alexander? My nephew." The King pointed out. "He died because of your false accusations."

"Alexander was damage control; moreover, it was out of my hands." He said. "He hasn't been the best person here, so how did you expect me to believe him?"

The King clenched his fist.

"I have other matters to attend to," Xaden said.

Then, Xaden turned away to face Marie. "Thank you for coming on such short notice. We wouldn't have discovered this without your help."

She smiled. "It's always a pleasure."

And with that, she bowed and left.

Marie made eye contact with Elena as she went past.

It was a hostile state, and then Elena went up to meet Xaden.

"I warned you about her." She said. "What am I here for you if you won't seek me out to help you?"

"Marie does not turn me down the way you do."

130 ELENA'S GOODBYE

Moreover, she is stronger than you." He said.
"You couldn't even accurately find out who had tried to kill me.

Elena involuntarily jerked back in disbelief at what he said, and then she cleared her throat and said, "She is stronger because she uses dark magic. You have no idea what it is. Dark magic is evil; once taken, it asks for something in return. I love you; that's why I will never use dark magic."

"If you loved me, you would have gotten all of this over with." He said rudely. "You don't care about me or anyone else."

She blinked in shock. "How can you say something like that, Xaden? This isn't how I raised you."

"I'm not a child anymore." He told her. 1

She looked at him, hurt at his words.

"That boy you raised is gone." He growled.

He was upset with her.

It was partly her fault. 1

She had served him false information, and he had gone ahead to disgrace himself in front of everyone.

"You don't mean what you're saying." She shook her head. "Stay away from Marie."

"I am an Alpha, not some half-dead child anymore. Leave me alone." Xaden said.

His words hurt her, and he could see it in her eyes.

She licked her bottom lip, and her fingers shook.

"You don't mean that." She said.

"I mean every word of it!" He spat. "Now leave!"

She gasped softly.

Then she nodded her head, turned away, and left the throne room.

Once Xaden saw her leaving, he realized that she was truly going.

She was the mother he never had. She was, in fact, his only mother after his family's massacre

He felt a squeeze in his chest.

He wanted to tell her to stop, run, and tell her that he meant those words, but pride and ego filled him.

After all, it had been her fault.

It was Elena's fault that he was hurt about Jasmine. He would have gotten rid of her from the first day he had met her had she used dark magic to read her the night they had come to the cabin.

Instead of going after, Xaden let his pride win.

He remained on his throne until she had left.

Then he felt a hand on his shoulder.

"It's for the best, my lord," Aurora said to him in a soothing voice.

Xaden wasn't so sure about that.