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Jasmine's lips fell open. 1

There was intense and serious uproar in the crowd.

The bombshell dropped and shook everyone.

Everyone was talking all at once.

The members of the wolf council were transfixed and in absolute belief.

Their leader stepped up and said. "Xaden, no member of your family survived that attack except for you and your uncle. We are just even learning about that now. Do you know what you are saying?"

"Yes, I am," Xaden said. "They somehow made everyone believe we were all dead. My sister was a child. She would barely remember anything. And remember that it was only about five years ago i revealed that I survived the attack."

"But yes, and that was because you were saved by Eleanor, the goddess bless her soul, " he said.

"I do not know the circumstances by which she

lives," Xaden said. "But Bale took my sister from my family! Stole her from us, and I have hard proof of it all."

Xaden picked up a small box that had been lying on the table since the beginning of their meeting.

Then he opened it and brought out a strand of hair.

He handed it to the wolf council leader.

"Smell it," Xaden instructed.

The wolf council leader did as he had asked, and then, to his bewilderment, his eyes went wide open.

"This is your family scent." He said in shock.

Xaden said nothing.

The people were all now talking.

Jasmine was stunned.

Xaden's sister was in the pack? Her own pack at home? And she had not known all this while?

It was not possible. It did not make any sense.

"If your sister is alive and in the crescent pack, then how come we did not smell her when we arrived?" Erik asked, too, taken aback by the

sudden revelations.

"But it is embedded with some magic, " the man said, still smelling the loc of blonde hair. "They had used magic to suppress the scent of your family line."

"Hence, we went in, and I was unable to perceive her," Xaden said. "She has been there all this while, and I never knew."

The room went quiet, and then all eyes went back to Jasmine.

"You knew this too, and you kept it from me." He said with such bitterness in his voice. "You knew that my sister was alive and being punished and tortured there all her life, and yet you said nothing?"

Jasmine shook her head. "No, please, my lord. I have no knowledge of this. It is not even possible that she lives there. I have heard nothing of this!"

Jasmine was equally bewildered because she had stayed in the pack, and her job being maltreated and being a slave gave her the opportunity to overhear the smallest gossip.

"You are still lying to me?!" He barked at her.

She shook her head, denying it. "There is no

such person in our pack. No one is maltreated in the pack."

She almost added, except for me, but she kept her mouth shut.

"I swear it. Even female slaves are rarely punished." She said. "Just those who are traitors. But I can swear to you that no one has been tortured ever since she was a child in the pack."

He eyed her. "Your lies."

She swallowed again.

"Disgust me." He said.

Then he turned to the members of the wolf council. "By first light tomorrow, we will travel to the crescent pack. We shall go by sea, for it is faster." 1

"This changes everything." The members of the wolf council said. "We will also have to inform the royal family."

"Do as you wish," Xaden said with a dismissal wave of hand. "But I will exact my judgment on Bale and his entire pack whether the king approves or not."

No one said anything to change his mind.

Then Xaden nodded his head to the door.

"All of you leave." He informed them.

They very slowly started to leave one after the other.

"Jasmine remains behind." He said to her.

All of them leaving looked at her before going on out.

Jasmine dreaded being left alone with him.

Was he finally going to kill her? 2

Was it time?

Once they were all out of the room, it was only Xaden and Jasmine left behind.

He walked to his throne and sat down.

He looked tired and weary.

She wanted to go to him and pacify him.

Talk to him and ease his pain.

But she knew that she was the one who had inflicted more pain on him.

He had lost his mother, discovered that Jasmine was an imposter and had betrayed him, and he had also seemingly discovered that his baby sister, who he believed was long dead, was

actually alive and well.

All of this had been revealed to him in one day.

She very much understood the weight of his pain and how much he would be feeling.

"You lied to me." Was the first thing he said to her.

His voice was so small and quiet that it broke her heart.

"Xaden, please, I did not mean to-

"You will address me by my title of Alpha." He cut her short. "Do you understand me?"

She was stunned, and then she curtseyed and said. "Yes, my lord."

His face was filled with disappointment.

With anguish and tiredness.

Her heart broke for him.

"I brought you in, " he said. "I risked my life for you. I broke rules for you."

The tears that were gathered in her eyes were now brewing.

"Alpha Xaden, please." She went down on her knees, begging him.

"Do not touch me!" He snapped at her.

She quickly withdrew her hand away from his clothes.

"I was going to make you mine." He said with a bitter laugh. "I was going to make you my mistress and bend the laws for you."

She looked up at him, shocked at his revelation.

"I was going to do that all for you." He said bitterly. "And now you made me a fool."

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