286 THE RETURN OF THE QUEEN

QUEEN ROSE'S POV 1

The members of court were seated deliberating the recently laid matters, The conquest of Alpha Xaden as a top priority.

"He killed them all. All of them." A representative of the green pack, Raymond said.

He had never liked Xaden's pack and had known to be a close friend of Baie.

"Baie was a man who did us great honors and won battles." He said. "Why should we simply let his death go astray."

Alicia, the representative of the Wind pack rolled her eyes. "Baie was a fucking bastard and you kissed his ass because of what he offered you."

"Hold your tongue!" Raymond hissed.

The other members of court started arguing.

"Enough." King Roland said already tired of their irrelevant arguing.

They went quiet but not before giving each other cold glares.

"May I say something?" Cherry asked.

Then all eyes turned on her.

"May I have a word?" She repeated.

Roland rose a brow at her uncertainly and then vaguely nodded.

"As much as I have to agree with the people here who believe that Xaden is owed his own vengeance for the sins committing against his family. The goddess bless all the lost souls." She said.

Some closed their eyes to acknowledge the prayer.

Cherry who was giving a fake silence looked up and said. "We can not dispute the fact that he needs to be punished as well."

There was an uproar amongst the table. Someone and agreeing and some disagreeing it.

"We can not simply let him walk away." She said amidst the loud noises trying to silence them so they could hear her. "He needs to be held accountable for the deaths on his head. The exact same way Bale has been."

"He killed Bale that was not even enough!" Someone said. "Bale committed murder and broke our sacred laws. Killing him was not even enough!"

"Yes!" Some shouted in agreement while some screwed their faces in anger.

Then the woman turned back at her. "Xaden owes us nothing. Rather we ow him and apology. All of us. For the things he suffered while we all watched from our seat!" 1

There were nods and yes.

"If we let him walk then the exact same thing that happened to him will repeat itself again." Cherry insisted. "How do we know that tomorrow, Bale's only surging daughter will not rise up against us in a revolt to revenge her father. The very same way Xaden had taken it upon himself to avenge his family, if the exact same way she could do the same. Another monster at our finger tips."

There were murmurings now.

"And what is more? This very same Xaden took her captive and made her suffer for the sins of her father. Do you think that now that he has finally killed her family she would not take up arms and revolt."

"Xaden will kill her." The woman who had been supporting his cause said. "There is no way he would let her live. He knows that too."

"You will be surprised what Xaden can do and will not do." Cherry said. "We will have another wild animal freed. She would be roaming ready to spill blood just like Xaden. And what makes any of you think she will stop there."

They were all quiet now. "Forgive me for making the statement more far ahead into the future. What makes any of you think that Xaden will stop with Bale. A man's bloodlust such as his will only be driven to hunger for more. He hates us."

She looked around to everyone on the table. "He hates each and every single one of us. Whether you are in his support now, he does not care. Where were you when he lost his beloved family? While they were being slaughtered ."

No one said a word.

Even the woman who had been backing him went quiet with guilt.

"I thought as much." She said standing tall at the table.

"He wants all our heads. Including the Royal family with no exception."

"So today it might be Xaden, tomorrow it might be Bale's daughter on a blood revenge. But either ways the chances of them suddenly forgiving and moving on is very slim."

No one said anything for a while.

Then Lydia the wolf who had been backing Xaden said. "So if you already have this all in your head, then what do you have as the solution."

"We kill Bale's daughter." She said. "And then we limit Xaden. Put him on some firm ropes to restrict an abuse of power. If we kill her pff then we would be facing less problems. If we put him on restrictions, he would be forced to obey." 5

"And what if he does not?" Luna Lydia said. "What if he defied the restrictions that you place on him? You forget that Xaden answers to no one."

"Then if he does not, we will be forced to put him down." She said with her head held up high.

There was an uproar amongst the crowd of people.

And then before anyone could say a word, the doors were pushed open, interrupting the discussion.

"I said no were to be allowed in!" Cherry snapped at the guards and then went quiet when she saw it was her sister who had returned.

Rose walked towards the long table.

They all bowed to her and cherry's face went red.

She realized her place when she saw they were all curtsying to her sister and hurriedly bowed.

"Your majesty." She said once she lifted her head up. "Sister I had no idea it was you. What are you doing here?"

Rose walked to where Cherry was.

"It's alright. I would expect not to be interrupted either." She said.

And then she stayed looking at cherry who was confused at first and then it occurred to her that she was seated on her own seat.

Cherry quickly got up from her seat and hurried and mumbled apologies.

Rose nodded and sat down on her rightful seat.

Then cherry went to the only chair available for her.

It was far at the end of the table and most probably would not hear well.

She took her seat and even before she got settled in, Rose began speaking.

Cherry tried her best to hide her irritation at the fact that her sister had just barged in without any further notice.

"So what are we discussing?" Rose asked looking around at the members of court.

"We were just speaking on putting down Alpha Xaden." Lydia quickly took advantage of the opportunity before her.

Cherry glared at Lydia, but said nothing.

"Putting Xaden down? Why, what do you mean. Why would you attempt to do that?" She asked now confused.

She looked around hoping to get answers from the members of court.

"We do not want to, your majesty. But ut is your sister who insists. She brought up the idea that it would be better we get rid of him." Lydia said. 1

"Only if he does not obey our rules." Cherry added quickly still glaring at Lydia.

"Why would you do that?" Rose asked turning to look at her sister.

"I understand what Xaden has been put through but letting him go after what he has just done will give him the impression that he is free to do as he wishes." Cherry said. "This is very reasonable considering the fact that-

Rose lifted her hand in the air silencing her sister.

"You can not understand what he went through. Neither can any of us. He lost everything. Ever single thing he had. With no family." Rose said.

There were lurking eyes from everyone and Rose noticed.

"What is it?" She asked with a frown.

"We found out that Xaden's sister is alive and well. She was raised by Alpha Bale and his wife Luna Maria as their own." Derrick a representative of the pack of west wind said.

Rose lifted her brows unsure of how to react to that revelation.

"What?"

And then she demanded that review of the report be read out for her.

Once Rose had heard every single crime that had been committed from the beginning to the end, she was furious.

"All this while Bale has had a stolen child. What sort of monster is he?!" She demanded pounding her fist. "We should have put Bale down since before this. He did not deserve to live after what he had done!"

"Write a letter," she said to her maester. "Informing all pack houses that Xaden has declared full right and ownership of the moonlight pack and those who had disobeyed the order of the royal family and supported Bale's cause instead of delivering him to his enemy."

"Each pack will step down from their place as Alpha and be exiled out of this land!" She said.

Cherry winced. "Rose is this not a rash decision that you are making? You need to think about it."

"I have thought about it!" Rose said her eyes blazing fire and then it was as if the whole

Hall was burning with heat.