

## Chapter 177

93 - Ryker

Claude starts as we barge in. "Well, hello Ryker. Unfortunately you have caught me at a bad time. Please make an appointment with my secretary and we can set something up soon."

If I didn't know he was trying to be a pompous asshole, I would be mad. He's nervous, I can smell it.

"I think now is as good a time as any. You did visit me this morning afterall. I was a little preoccupied at the time, but my mate is very generous and decided I should check in on you."

"You allow your mate to dictate your schedule?" He scoffs. "How modern of you." He's too old to roll his eyes effectively, but he tried.

"Your Luna is an impressive person. She has made it through several attacks unharmed and managed to inflict some damage to her attackers along the way." 2

"Bullsh\*t! She's a weak human. The only reason she survived anything is because she is heavily guarded. I don't know why you keep her around. You should be mating with a she-wolf who can bring you more power and strength." 1

He's trying to appear like this conversation bores him, pretending to go back to scouring his books for whatever is so important. The constant eye twitch in my direction is the biggest tell that I still have his undivided attention. The slight tremor of his hand is another tell.

"Is there something we can help you with? You have clearly been wanting a word with me." I stand just inside the door, crossing my arms



over my chest. Josh steps around me to my left flank and closest to the other exit in the room. 1

"What are you on about, Ryker?" Another scoff, another eye twitch. Another page flip.

"You have been spotted and scented near my pack house regularly for over a month now, but haven't actually come to see me. Which tells me that it's not me you want to see."

"I have very little interest in what you get up to, boy." 1

"My point exactly. Why come to see me and not see me? Why hide out in the forest and stalk my mate?"

"I am tired of your waffling, boy. Leave. I have actual work to do, and I don't have time to entertain you and your stupid questions. I could not care less about your weak, human mate."

"And yet on more than one occasion, you have made attempts on my luna." I cross my arms while he continues to ignore me. I want to see if he'll take the bait and confess to attacking Kennedy. I have Rick's full attention though. He's never been good at schooling his emotions. "Leave her out of this." 2

"She's a human. She's no luna. Certainly not mine. We both know that. I don't know why you're even pretending to force the topic." He sounds so calm, but the animosity radiating off of him is palpable.

"She is my mate and Luna. You will show your respect." I'm growing angry now.

"The same way you have? She's not even marked or mated from what I understand and somewhat of a running joke among the females of your



pack. You should get rid of her. You clearly don't want her, no matter how the Moon Goddess is trying to force it. We could help if that's your problem." He gestures to Rick then himself. The former goes pale at the suggestion. "That way your hands don't get dirty and everyone can go on thinking you're this perfect little trophy son." He scoffs at me and I shift forward as a hand grips my shoulder hard. Copyright © 2024 Miss L Writes and Ember Mantel Productions 1

"Don't let him get to you, boss. He knows she's special otherwise he wouldn't keep coming after her." Josh tries to calm me. It doesn't work, but he does help me to refocus. I can't lose my temper here. That's what he wants.

Then a warmth spreads over me, like honey running from the top of my head to my feet. I take a deep breath and I can smell her all around me. My whole body calms and I feel like my brain fog has been cleared completely. I look up at Claude. He clearly noticed that something happened to me. His look of confusion has my face forming into a vicious smile. 1

"Your Luna doesn't take kindly to your disrespect either. Do not attempt to get near her again. Do not attempt to harm her again. If you do, I will make sure you die in the most painful and public way possible." 1

"Did you just threaten me, pup?"

"As your alpha I can make any threats I deem necessary to protect my pack and its members. You are on thin ice as it is. My father is currently cleaning up your mess near the Nightwalker pack. You do realize that these projects and alliances help the pack right? They help you stay in this house that you don't work for or take care of."

"It's interesting that you threaten me, but your father is the one doing all of the work." He raises his eyebrow and looks over his book. "As I said, I



have things to get done here. You can show yourselves out.”