

Chapter 311 - My Professor Is My Alpha Mate

Enzo's POV

Something was wrong.

I knew it before Ethan called me. I could feel it through our mate bond, regardless of how far she was. I knew something had happened. My wolf has been on edge for hours, saying we needed to get to Alpha Jonathan's packhouse to be with our mate. He didn't like her being that far away from us.

He had to deal with it when we remained in our pack while Lila went to school, and he didn't like it then either. But now it was different; now she was going to an Alpha's pack that Max despised. Not that I could blame him. Alpha Jonathan always gave me a shady vibe. He was a businessman, which meant he cared more about his business and making a quick buck than he did anything else.

I felt a shudder in my chest, and I clutched it as I staggered backward.

"Alpha?" One of my warriors asked, narrowing his eyes at me.

We were on training grounds; I had just gotten out of the gym and now I was scoring with some of my men as part of their training, along with some training of my own. As Alpha, I always have to be prepared for an attack. But an inward attack was not something I was prepared for.

My warrior rushed to my side and grabbed my arm to steady me, but I jerked him off.

"What is it, Alpha? Should I get the doctor?"

"No," I said between my teeth.

It wasn't something a doctor could help me with. It was the bond.

"Our mate," Max grumbled. "Something is wrong."

I knew he was right and before I could say anything more, another voice sounded from the patio.

"Alpha! You have a phone call in the parlor!"

I patted my pants, frowning. Parlor calls were for emergencies; most usually just called my cellphone. But when I patted my pants and felt no phone, a growl escaped from my throat.

I turned and ran as fast as my human legs could allow. I ran through the patio doors and into the parlor. The phone sat on the desk on the far side of the room, past the couches, the bookshelves, the fireplace, the coffee station, and the mini kitchen.

A lot of my pack members enjoyed this room, including the children. I recently set up a play area on the far side of the room where the pups can roam and play freely without worry. Annabelle, Jake's mate, I had put in charge of the parlor; so, it also doubled as her office.

I grabbed the phone and pressed the blinking button.

"Yes?"

"It's Ethan," Ethan said breathlessly. "You need to get to Alpha Jonathan's packhouse right now."

"What happened?" I asked, my feeling as if it weighed a thousand pounds. "Is it Lila?"

"Yes," Ethan said without hesitation. "She's missing."

I didn't waste any more time. I slammed the phone down and ran as fast as I could until I reached outside. In mid-air, I shifted into my wolf form and allowed Max to take full control. He could run faster than I ever could. He had one mission and one mission only; get to our mate.

He buzzed through the forest with lightning speed. Looking around, everything was a blur as we ran. Animals couldn't even jump out of the way fast enough, but Max paid them no attention. He wasn't hunting; he was too preoccupied.

Our mate was in danger; we weren't there when we should have been.

If anything happened to her, neither of us would forgive ourselves.

It took us about 15 minutes to get to the packhouse. Ethan, being the best Beta, a wolf could have, was already waiting outside with an extra change of clothing. I didn't have to tell him I was running here in my wolf form and to be prepared. He just knew.

I shifted back into my human form and grabbed the pair of jeans and shirt that Ethan snatched from Alpha Jonathan. My wolf gave a fit about having to wear that man's clothing, but that wasn't important. Not right now. "Tell me what happened," I ordered as I walked past him and toward the front door of the packhouse.

I couldn't smell Lila nearby, which was irritating to both me and my wolf. But her scent lingered, it was stale.

“She went upstairs to check on her friend...” Ethan began to explain.

“What friend?” I asked, interrupting him.

I needed to know the ENTIRE story.

“I think her name is Rachel...”

“Rachel is supposed to be in the hospital,” I barked.

“I think her father released her for the banquet,” Ethan explained. “She wasn’t feeling well, so she excused herself and went upstairs to one of the guest rooms to lie down. Lila went upstairs after dinner to check on her.”

“And then she went missing?”

“Well, we heard screams from downstairs...”

“Screams? Lila’s?”

“No...” Ethan said, shaking his head. I glanced at his face and saw that it had gone pale.

“Then who’s?” I asked through my teeth, feeling impatient.

“Raymonds... Rachel’s father,” he answered grimly.

What? None of it made any sense. What the hell was my Beta talking about? Before I could open my mouth to ask, he continued.

“Raymond was screaming in agony, so we went upstairs to see what was going on and we saw Rachel kneeling over him and covered in his blood,” Ethan said, shuddering.

I froze as we reached the front room of the packhouse. As soon as I was inside the house, I smelled the metallic scent of blood. It made the packhouse reek. I turned to Ethan, trying to keep control of my wolf. But it was growing more difficult with each passing moment.

“And then what?” I asked with a clenched jaw.

“She said she didn’t mean to do it...” Ethan said, his face falling. “But she was covered in his blood. We think Rachel was the one who killed all those people at the school....”

My stomach tightened; the murderer has been under our nose this entire time? That close to my mate? Living in the same dorm room?

How did I not see it sooner? Fury was rising through me and from the worry on Ethan's face, I knew my wolf was making himself known through my eyes. He was on the edge, holding not every single one of Ethan's words as if his life depended on it.

Lila's life depended on it; which meant ours did too.

"And Lila?"

"She wasn't there," Ethan answered, shaking his head. "She was completely gone."

I wanted to ask more questions, but the door to the living room opened and Bastien walked out. I could see blood on his suit, and he looked distraught. I couldn't blame him; his daughter was missing. Telling from the blood on his clothing, it must have been a blood bath in there.

"Did Ethan catch you up?" Alpha Bastien asked, stopping in front of me.

"Mostly," I answered. "There's seriously no sign of her?"

Bastien shook his head.

"None," he answered.

"Where is Rachel?"

"Being detained upstairs," Bastien said, motioning with his head to the stairway.

I went to head up the stairs, but Bastien grabbed my shoulder, holding me in place.

"It's a bad scene; you should prepare yourself. We didn't have time to move anything or clean," he warned.

I glared at him.

"I don't give a shit," I seethed.

He didn't take offense to my unpleasant tone. He just nodded and took a step back. I turned back around and ran up the stairs. I could hear Bastien and Ethan on my tail. I followed the scent of the blood until I reached the door that it was most strong.

I barged in without knocking and froze at the doorway.

It seriously was a blood bath. The blood smelled disgusting and rotten; everything about it was wrong and the scent alone made me want to puke. Raymond was lying on his back, his eyes opened slightly but it was obvious he was dead. He had a gaping hole in his chest where his heart should be, but it wasn't there. Bits of it were lying beside him on the ground, but it was evident that most of it had been consumed.

Raymond was an asshole, so it wasn't much of a loss. But still, nobody deserved to die like that.

What kind of monster would do that?

Then, my eyes shifted upward, and I saw her.

Rachel sat in the corner of the room, on the floor, with her knees pressed to her chest and head buried in her lap. She had cuffs around her arms and legs, preventing her from going anywhere or using any kind of abilities. Gammas were surrounding her as well, including Jake who was watching me somberly.

His job was to get Lila there and back safely. But Ethan's job was to make sure Lila remained safe the entire time.

Anger coursed through me as I breathed out my nose like an angry bull and turned to face my Beta.

"And where the hell were you during all of this?" I seethed. "You were supposed to keep her safe."

Ethan's head lowered, shamefully.

"I... I was distracted," he murmured, staring at the ground.

"Distracted?" I asked, feeling nothing but pissed. How could my Beta be distracted enough to not do his job?! "Distracted by what?"

"I... uh... I found my mate."

The news of this surprised me; it certainly wasn't what I was expecting. He found his mate in Alpha Jonathan's pack?

It's not even important right now; I shook my head and tried to ease my anger. It would distract me too; I couldn't be too mad at him.

Besides, it's not like he was alone here.

I put my hand on his shoulder and gave him a nod.

"Congratulations, man," I said to him.

He nodded in return, but he still looked remorseful.

I turned to Rachel who was still sobbing in her lap.

I walked up to her; the warriors allowed me to pass so I could speak with her.

“Where is she?” I asked through my teeth.

Rachel looked and I saw the torment in her red and swollen eyes.

“I...I don’t know...” she sobbed.

“What do you mean you don’t know?!” I growled. “You were here with her. Where is she?” Both my wolf and I could be heard clear as day.

She let out another sob and shook her head.

“It took her...” she whimpered.

“WHAT TOOK HER?!” I roared.

After another sob, she glanced over my shoulder at Bastien and then back at me. When she spoke, it was almost inaudible.

“The darkness...”

Chapter 312 Darkness Took Lila

Chapter 312 - My Professor Is My Alpha Mate

Enzo’s POV

I turned to Alpha Bastien who looked pale but determined at the same time. There were a lot of questions that we both had, but I had a feeling we weren’t going to get them from Rachel. She was clearly traumatized and speaking in circles.

She kept murmuring something that neither of us could understand and she was continuously rocking back and forth. It was obvious that she wasn’t in the right state of mind.

“Rachel, we need to find out where Lila is. Is there anything you can tell us that could be helpful?” I found myself asking anyway, knowing she wasn’t going to say much of anything.

She kept shaking her head as she sobbed.

“Alpha, should we lock her up?” Jake asked, staring warily at Rachel.

I looked at Bastien again; I didn't have the answers. But I didn't think Rachel killed these people out of her own free will. I don't think she killed her father on purpose. When I looked back at Rachel, I saw that she was now looking at me.

"The... voice..." she murmured, her eyes looking scarily ghostly. I knew she wasn't fully there, but her words struck a chord with my wolf. He was listening to her intently. I narrowed my eyes at her and bent down so I was at eye level.

"What voice?" I asked firmly, but not too firm where I'd scare her silent.

"It was in my head..." she whispered. She was staring at nothing in particular; her lip quivered, and I knew she was about to start sobbing again. "It told me to do awful things.... It hurt so bad..."

"Do you know who was in control of that voice?" I asked; maybe we were getting somewhere after all.

She thought about it for a moment before shaking her head rapidly.

"No... no...no..." she cried in her lap.

"Okay, that's okay, Rachel," I said, trying to be reassuring, but the energy was so high that I couldn't get my voice to sound compassionate. I was pissed and it was clear in my tone. "Do you know why it made you do those things?"

She was quiet for a moment; I didn't think she was going to respond, but she lifted her head and stared at me through her unshed tears.

"Darkness needed to feed..." she whispered hoarsely. "It can't survive long if it doesn't feed."

Those people she killed at the school must have been sacrifices to the darkness to keep it around and strong. I shuddered at the thought of Lila being next on its list. But it was odd that she wasn't here and that they took her away.

"Do you know why they wanted Lila?" I found myself asking.

"Vessel..." she whispered.

Then she began to sob again, and her entire body jolted and shivered.

"She's clearly not well," Alpha Jonathan seethed. "Take her to the dungeon. We will deal with her later. We need to clean this mess."

"Yes, Alpha," the gammas said as they grabbed Rachel's arms and pulled her to her feet with great force. She didn't fight them or even whimper at the force they'd used.

She struggled to walk, but she managed. But as she walked past me, she looked up at me, and with quivering lips she said, “You can’t stop it... no one can...”

Then, she was dragged out of the room.

Alpha Jonathan shook his head with disgust.

“I’m not humoring that mess,” he muttered. “I need to make my guests leave now. The banquet has been ruined.”

“That’s not the important thing,” I growled.

“No, it’s not,” Bastien agreed, both of us glaring at Jonathan. “We need to find my daughter. She disappeared in YOUR packhouse, Alpha. Have any ideas who could have taken her?”

“I was downstairs with you the entire time,” Alpha Jonathan said, narrowing his eyes. “How the hell should I know?”

“It’s just weird that you suddenly wanted to have a banquet and now my MATE IS MISSING,” I growled, shaking the room we stood in.

Alpha Jonathan’s eyes widened with shock and at first, I didn’t understand why. But then I realized the mistake I’d made.

Shit.

“Lila is your mate?” Jonathan asked, taken aback. “Since when?”

“It’s not important,” I muttered, shoving past him to leave the room.

“As the guy who OWNS the school she studies in and the school you WORK in, it is my business,” Jonathan seethed. “You could get FIRED for not reporting this, Alpha.”

“My job is the least of my concerns right now,” I muttered.

“Why are your gammas still standing around?” Bastien growled. “I want every gamma this pack has to be searching the entire territory for my daughter.”

His Alpha voice carried around the packhouse and gammas all over jumped into action.

“I’ll get a hold of my Beta and get him and some of my best gammas here as well,” Bastien said, grabbing his phone.

While Bastien did that, I mindlinked Jake.

“Call your men, get them here,” I ordered him. “I want the best warriors to search for Lila.”

“Yes, Alpha,” Jake quickly replied.

“Bastien...” I heard a familiar female voice sounding choked up, coming from a short distance.

We were walking down the stairs when Luna Selene met us at the bottom. Bastien wrapped her in his arms, and she cried.

“Please, tell me you have a clue as to where our daughter is...” she sobbed.

“We will soon,” he assured her, holding her close.

It made me feel a sense of jealousy because I couldn’t hold my mate.

“Most of the guests had already gone. When they heard the screaming, it freaked them out,” she said, wiping her eyes. “What can I do to help?”

“I don’t think it’s safe for you to stay here,” Bastien told her gently.

She looked puzzled.

“I’m not leaving until we know where Lila is,” she said firmly.

Selene had always been strong and fearless when it came to her pups; if it meant protecting them, she would conquer the entire world. She basically has when she defeated my father.

“And we will find her, but we need to make sure everyone else here is safe as well,” Bastien told her. “I think you should take her friends away from here.”

“They can go to my packhouse. It’s not too far and not too close either. They will be safe,” I chimed in, meeting Selene’s worried eyes.

“I can’t leave here,” she said shaking her head and folding her arms across her chest. “Not without my daughter.”

“Selene, for once, I need you to listen to me,” Bastien said firmly, narrowing his eyes at her.

“We need to make sure everyone is safe. This house had darkness inside of it less than an hour ago. It took our daughter and whatever happened to Rachel is still affecting her. We don’t know if she’s still under their control or if it’ll come back. Those kids in the living room are not safe. I need you to do this for me.”

She looked like she wanted to protest again, but I spoke up first.

“He’s right; we can’t risk anyone else getting hurt. It’s wise if you took everyone back to my pack.”

“Alpha Enzo, I think you should go too. Make sure they get back safe,” Bastien said, eyeing me carefully.

“The hell I’m leaving,” I growled, Max was already hissing at the very thought of leaving this area. “I’m searching for my mate.”

“We already have the best warriors searching for her and we have more on their way as we speak. You can join us after but I’d feel more comfortable if I knew everyone else was safe,” Bastien said calmly.

“I’m not leaving,” I said through my teeth. “I’m searching for Lila.”

“You can return to us after,” Bastien said firmly. “You need a clear head before you do anything. You are too wound up. Take an hour to bring them to your pack and then rejoin us.”

I opened my mouth to argue, but Selene grabbed my arm.

“I’d feel better if you came with us. I need to speak with you anyway,” she said sounding almost urgent.

“What is it?” Bastien asked before I could.

She gave him a small smile and then kissed his cheek gently.

“Go search for our daughter. We will be fine and we will speak later,” she said before stepping away.

From his scowl, he didn’t seem to like that, but she paid him no attention. I was trying desperately to keep my wolf under control; he didn’t want to leave, and he was going to do what he could to prevent me from moving. But Selene was stronger than she looked and grabbed my arm, pulling me along with her, much to my dismay.

We went into the living to grab the others. Everybody looked to be distraught, but not as distraught as me. I was still trying to keep my wolf under control and fighting the urge to break things. Becca was curled up on the couch with Luis and it was obvious she was crying. I wasn’t sure how much information they knew, but the less they knew the better, so I didn’t fill them in on everything that was happening.

Kayla was pacing back and forth; she looked stressed, and I could feel her anxiety from just looking at her. Brody was also on the couch; he looked pale, and he was staring down at his phone with a crease between his brows.

I looked around the room for a minute until my eyes landed on Beta Ethan. I hadn’t realized he snuck off and came in here. His back was turned from me, so I couldn’t see what he was doing.

I furrowed my brows together and cleared my throat loudly, getting his attention. When he turned, I was stunned at what I saw.

Brianna, Lila's best friend and Gamma Donovan's niece was curled up in his arms. He held her protectively as her body trembled and she cried.

I cocked my head to the side and met his eyes.

"Mate?" I mouthed the word and Ethan nodded.

I raised my brows in response.

Well, I'll be damned.

"I'm being forced to return to Calypso to make sure they get back safely," I explained to my beta. He nodded, still holding a crying Brianna. "I'll take her back too. But I need you to stay here and search for Lila with the others. I'll be back as soon as I possibly can."

"Will do," he said, kissing the top of Brianna's head.

He turned around with her so they could speak in private for a few minutes.

"We need to leave," she announced to the rest of the room. "Alpha Enzo is going to take us back to his pack for the time being. It's not safe here..."

"Can't I stay?" Brianna asked through sobs. "I want to help search for Lila."

"We'd feel better if you were safe," Selene told her calmly. "You don't need to worry; we are going to find her. But right now, darkness is lurking in the region, and we need to get to safety. We need to get away from here."

They all stood and began to make their way out of the living room; most of them walking with their heads held downward.

Selene and I were the last to leave the room and she looked up at me; I saw this determination in my face that made me realize she was up to something.

"You have a prisoner in your dungeon still, right?" She asked.

I raised my brows, but I nodded.

"Xander, yes," I answered.

"Good," she said, turning and walking toward the door. "I need to speak with him."

Chapter 313 - My Professor Is My Alpha Mate

Lila's POV

“Are you sure this cage is strong enough to keep her locked up?”

“Jazzy said it was. We have to trust her. If we don't, she will kill us like she did the others.”

“Yeah, but this Volana is supposed to be the strongest of them all. This cage doesn't look all that strong. What if she uses her wolf to break out and then SHE kills us.”

“Don't let Jazzy hear you talk like that.”

The voices faded, so I knew they were getting further away. I lay flat down on cold concrete; my entire body was numb. If I was in pain, I wouldn't be able to feel it. I wasn't sure what they had done to me or where they had taken me, but I knew it was dark. Very dark.

Usually, I could see clearly in the dark, but I knew as soon as I came through that my abilities weren't working. I knew my wolf was still there, I could hear her shivering and panting in my mind. She didn't want to hide in the furthest corner of my mind and leave me alone, so she remained close to me. But I also knew she was powerless. She was terrified, which terrified me because Val was rarely terrified.

She didn't like this place; she got a bad sense from it. I just wished I could lift my head and try to figure out where I was. But it was no use, I couldn't move a single muscle.

I wasn't even sure if I was breathing.

Was I even alive?

My memory was a little foggy, but I remembered the feeling after I was injected with wolfsbane. It was like my entire insides were engulfed in flames. It was so painful; I couldn't even scream. Then, everything went black.

I don't know who stabbed me with that injection, but I do remember seeing Rachel. I remember her face and the eyes that appeared so empty. She was consumed by darkness; she wasn't herself. My heart ached when I thought about it.

There was no concept of time here; I wasn't sure how long I had been here for. How many hours; how many days? But I've been slipping in and out of consciousness and when I come back

through, there's always new voices. New people were watching me sleep; checking on me to make sure I didn't move. They were terrified I would break out of here and kill them all.

Maybe if I was strong enough, I'd break out of here and fight until I was free. But I wasn't strong. I was powerless. My wolf felt powerless.

I felt another wave of exhaustion taking over and I wasn't going to be strong enough to fight it. I was just so tired. I closed my eyes and slipped back into sweet darkness.

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Enzo's POV

The drive back to my packhouse was quiet besides the occasional sob and snuffle from some of the ladies. Ethan stayed behind with Alpha Bastien and Jake.

Once I knew everybody in my territory was safe and we spoke to Xander, I was going to return and join the search party. I wasn't going to sleep until Lila was safe in my arms again. I still wasn't sure what Selene wanted to speak to him about; she wouldn't elaborate.

"I can't explain it, but I think Alpha Jonathan has something to do with this," Max growled within me.

"Bastien confirmed that Jonathan was downstairs the entire time," I told my wolf.

"It still doesn't feel right," he murmured in response.

I knew he was right; it didn't feel right. It didn't feel right at all. My stomach clenched at the thought of Jonathan doing something to my mate. I shouldn't have let her come here. I should have been here. I should have been the one to protect her.

I failed my mate.

When we got back to my packhouse Dee was the first one to greet me. I shouldn't have been surprised that she already knew what had happened. Word travels around fast.

"You haven't been able to find her?" Dee asked, her voice cracking as held back a cry.

"No, but we will. I have gammas on their way there as we speak," I assured her.

She nodded slowly. She looked at Selene and her frown deepened.

"Oh, you poor dear," Dee berated, wrapping Selene into her arms. Selene looked hesitant at first, but then she embraced Dee back, melting into her. "I know in my heart that Lila will be okay, and we will get her back safe and sound," Dee breathed against Selene's ear.

Selene closed her eyes, allowing a few stray tears to escape her eyes and she held Dee tighter.

“Thank you,” she breathed.

“I’ll make you something delicious for dinner tonight,” Dee said, releasing her hold on Selene’s body before looking at everyone else.

“You all should come inside and yourselves up,” Dee ordered, motioning for them all to head inside. “Come on.”

Nobody was going to argue with her. They all went inside, and Dee followed after them.

Selene looked at me and narrowed her eyes.

“Take me to him,” she demanded.

I didn’t want to take Selene to see this man; he was unstable, and he couldn’t be trusted. Bastien would kill me if he found out I let his Luna down in the dungeon to see this crazed maniac. But I also knew that Selene wasn’t the type to back down.

She always got what she wanted.

She folded her arms across her chest and raised her brows, so I sighed and motioned for her to follow me.

We went down the stairs and I stopped in front of the guard that I appointed to keep watch over this area.

“Alpha,” he greeted, looking surprised. “I didn’t know you’d be back so soon.”

His eyes went straight to Selene, and they widened in shock.

“Luna Selene!” He bowed his head in respect to her.

“The Luna would like to speak with Xander,” I explained. “Make sure no one interrupts us.”

“Yes, sir,” he said, still keeping his head bowed.

For goddess’s sake, it’s not like Selene was royalty. She’s not even his Luna. But her daughter will be once we get her back from whomever took her.

If darkness was involved, that meant Jazzy probably had something to do with this.

We walked through the dungeon grounds until we reached the one that Xander was kept in. Selene stayed closely behind me, saying nothing until we reached the cell. Then, she stepped around me to peer at him.

Per the orders of Lila, we had stopped torturing him. She had it in her head that he was trying to prepare her for something and that he couldn't tell us what it was for some unknown reason. She didn't find that torturing him was necessary.

He was looking a lot better than he looked when I last saw him, which was only yesterday. We loosened his cuffs so he still couldn't use any abilities but allowed him some room to heal properly using his very guarded wolf.

He sat against the wall in the furthest corner of the cell and peered up at Selene.

"Luna Selene..." he greeted, almost sounding surprised.

She was also surprised; she hadn't met him yet so there was no reason he would know who she was.

"How do you know me?" She asked firmly, her wolf snarling in her throat.

"I know all about you," Xander said, a glimmer of humor in his eyes. "What honor do I have for this visit?"

"You once tried to kidnap my daughter. Were you working with someone?" Selene asked, getting to the point.

I couldn't help but scoff, knowing he wasn't going to say a word.

"I can't tell you, Luna," he told her, which was predicted.

"Can you tell me about darkness?"

Xander's face fell and his eyes widened, but he said nothing so she continued.

"Darkness took my daughter, and I want her back. If you aren't working with it, then tell me about it."

He opened his mouth to speak and for a second, I thought he was actually going to talk. I would have been a little pissed because we've been trying to get him to talk for weeks but to no prevail.

But then he closed his mouth and for a second, he looked a bit lost.

"I'm not working with it..." he said slowly. "But I can't talk about it."

"Why?" She demanded to know. "My daughter will die if we don't find her. We need to get her back."

Xander sighed and I thought he actually looked a little remorseful.

“A lot more people will die if I speak,” he answered.

“He’s not going to tell you anything,” I muttered. “We’ve been trying for weeks.”

“Or maybe you aren’t asking the right questions,” she shot back, giving me a firm look.

“If I speak about it out loud, it will be heard and everyone I love will die,” Xander muttered. “I can’t let that happen.”

“We can protect those you love,” Selene assured him. “You can trust us.”

“I trust you, Luna. But you won’t be able to stop it. It has eyes and ears everywhere...” I grabbed the cell bars and shook it, rattling the entire cell.

“Answer her questions, damn you!” I growled; I was done with these mind games.

“I can’t,” Xander said through his teeth. “I had a job to do and by being here, you prevented me from doing that. My only job was to train her and get her ready for the battle of her life. I don’t know if she’s well enough prepared. All I know is that she must stay alive.” He paused and lowered his head. “I might have said too much; I can’t give it any more reasons to search my mind.”

“Darkness can read your mind?” Selene asked, furrowing her brows together.

“It can get in your head,” he muttered.

“He said the same thing to Lila too,” I pointed out. “He said it can get in your head.”

“And you didn’t listen to him?” Selene scolded.

“He’s a maniac,” I argued, making Xander scoff.

I scowled at him.

She rolled her eyes and looked back at Xander.

“Can it read all of our minds?”

“Not the mind of a Volana,” he answered, and then he looked at me. “Or those with Volana blood inside of them.”

“So, we are allowed to know information without it finding out,” Selene breathed. “But we can’t get the information from you because if you spoke about it, darkness will hear you and know that there is an entire pack with the same knowledge.”

“I’d rather we didn’t give it a reason to search my head,” he muttered. “I’ve already said too much and discussing this any further will make it suspicious.”

I didn’t know what that meant, but I was done listening to him. We were wasting time here; I needed to be out there searching for Lila.

“The guardian of the earth is protecting this pack; darkness isn’t here,” Selene assured him.

“It’s protecting against dark magic, but darkness is a much more powerful force. It can still get in,” Xander told us.

“But we would be warned if it was currently here,” Selene mentioned.

“I’m not taking the chance...”

“You might not have to chance anything. You don’t need to tell us anything. But I know someone who might be able to help us.”

Chapter 314 Examination

Chapter 314 - My Professor Is My Alpha Mate

Lila’s POV

When I came through again, there was a bright light shining in my eyes. I winced away; pain seared through my body and hissed in agony. I jerked away from the firm hands that were grasping me.

I felt a blow against the side of my face, and I knew it had to have been someone’s hand. Some hit me. I felt a warm liquid oozing down the side of my face and instantly smelled my own blood. My body quivered and shook in agony. I could see my wolf in my mind’s eye, and she was cowering against a corner, not wanting to speak, but also not wanting to leave me. I could see the pain in her eyes though; it was the wolfsbane. It was hurting her terribly.

“I’d like to do a proper examination of her,” said a gentle voice. My vision cleared only slightly, and I saw a tall woman standing before me. Or maybe she just seemed tall because I was being pressed to the ground.

But she wore a white doctor's coat with a blue blazer underneath. She had long blond hair and fair skin; when she looked down at me, I saw her emerald, green eyes that were practically glowing and her long lashes that nearly touched the glass of her silver-framed glasses.

From the silver, she definitely wasn't a wolf.

She was pretty though, and she looked gentle. She was speaking to someone I couldn't quite see. I wasn't sure if I was still in the dark, or if it was just my vision, either or, I couldn't tell where I was.

But I could now feel my body and I could move. If these assholes holding me would allow me to move that is. But they were pressing me hard into the ground; I could hardly breathe. They were treating me like a rabid animal. Like I was a beast they couldn't tame.

"You can do the examination here," a familiar voice seethed.

It was Jazzy; I knew her voice almost immediately. She was standing nearby, speaking to this woman. I'm assuming this woman was a doctor of some sort, but she wasn't a human. Maybe a witch? She could be a healer.

"Not properly I can't. I need my clinic. It has technology that you could only dream about. I would be able to do a full examination and get you a report on her health in only a few hours," the woman explained; she sounded almost desperate and eager.

It worried me.

Jazzy was quiet for a moment.

"It's not necessary," she muttered.

"It is if you want your spell to work. If her blood is tainted or if she's ill, it won't work," the woman said in return. "Jazzy, I have been your healer for over a century. When will you learn to trust me?"

There was no response at first; for a moment, I thought maybe Jazzy had walked away. But then she spoke again, and I felt my body shuddering.

"Fine. You have 3 hours. Then I want her back in this cage. Give her more wolfsbane to be sure she doesn't try anything stupid."

"Yes, mam," one of the men holding me said.

I felt a sting in my neck and then it felt like my entire body was on fire again. I wanted to scream, but the pain was too much. They wouldn't let me go; as much as I struggled, they wouldn't release me.

The last thing I thought about before everything went black was, “Enzo...”

.....

When I opened my eyes, I instantly wished I could black out again. I moved my arm and pain seized my flesh. I screamed in agony and looked down to see that a silver cuff was wrapped around both my wrists.

When I moved my legs, more pain consumed me, and I realized I was cuffed at my feet too. I was completely chained down on this bed.

The worst part was... I was completely naked.

However, I was more alert than I was previously. Which meant whatever they gave me to make me feel numb and out of it was wearing off.

I heard the clicking of shoes and it was coming closer. I wanted to struggle and try to break free from these chains that bound me, but I knew if I did then it would only cause me more pain. I was so weak, and I was so exhausted; I didn't want any more pain right now.

“Oh, you're awake,” the same gentle voice from earlier said as she approached.

I looked up to see that healer lady walking toward me.

“I'm Dr. Hannah Laureen,” she said gently, giving me a small smile. “You can call me Hannah if you'd like.”

“Where am I?” I found myself asking, surprised that I could even speak.

She looked surprised too but then she smiled.

“I'm afraid I can't tell you exactly where you are. But you are inside of my clinic right now. I've been monitoring and examining you for quite some time now.”

“W...why?” I struggled to ask that question; I wasn't even sure I wanted to know the reason.

“Jazzy wants to use you to create a Volana vessel,” she answered simply as if she were ordering pizza. “But she wouldn't be able to do that if you were unwell or tainted.”

“A Volana vessel?” I croaked. “Why me?”

She raised her brows at me as if she was genuinely surprised that I didn't know the answer.

“Because you are the strongest Volana to ever exist,” she answered, narrowing her eyes at me. “Which means, she can create the strongest vessel to ever exist.”

The strongest Volana? I'm not the strongest Volana. I just started to be able to control my abilities. I'm still learning. I'm still young. My mother was way better than I was.

I couldn't be the strongest Volana to ever exist. I would have laughed if I wasn't so uncomfortable.

"So, she's going to turn me into a vessel so I can do her bidding?" I asked bitterly.

This made Dr. Hannah Laureen laugh.

"Oh, goddess no. You are just the Volana used as the sacrifice. She has another body for that."

I suddenly felt cold.

She was going to use someone else as the sacrifice? Who?

I wanted to ask, but I couldn't even get the words out of my mouth. I felt uneasy and my stomach clenched.

I just wanted to go home; I wanted to get back to my mate. My wolf was whining and there was nothing I could do about it.

"I have most of your medical tests done. You seem very healthy. I'm pleased by that," she said fondly. "Your allergy list will take a little longer. I should get results within the next day or so. But other than that, I'm pleased with what I see."

"I want to go home," I muttered, wanting to struggle against the chains. But not wanting to cause me any more pain.

She frowned.

"I'm afraid that's not possible. Jazzy needs you as a sacrifice for Monday's ritual."

"Monday?" I whispered. I knew they had taken me on a Saturday which was when the banquet was held.

Oh, goddess... the banquet. Everybody was going to be so worried. Did they even know I was missing?

"Monday is when the red full moon is," she explained. "It's the only time that this spell will work."

"What spell?" I demanded to know.

She sighed.

“It’s not important,” she said, shaking her head at me. “All you need to know is that Jazzy is the boss. What she says goes. If you go against her, she will hurt you in ways that will make you wish you were dead.”

I shuddered at the thought, thinking about earlier when I felt that terrible pain. I didn’t want to feel that again. I glanced at the cuffs that were wrapped around my wrists and legs.

“Can we get rid of these?” I asked, hearing the strain in my voice. “They hurt…”

She frowned and glanced at the cuffs before shaking her head.

“For my safety… I can’t remove those,” she answered.

“Do you seriously think I’m strong enough to do anything?” I asked, staring up at her pointedly.

She only shrugged.

“You are the strongest Volcano wolf to ever exist. I can’t take the risk.”

A growl escaped my throat and this time I knew it was my wolf; she was awake, and she was angry.

Val being awake meant the wolfsbane was wearing off, or maybe this was a different kind of wolfsbane that allowed her to be active.

“I think it’s some kind of enchantment…” Val said, almost hoarsely. “It doesn’t feel right. I’m able to speak to you…maybe even shift. But I wouldn’t be strong or fast. I also don’t think I can use my abilities… I’m useless.”

“You aren’t useless,” I told her my wolf firmly.

“It’s definitely a different type of wolfsbane…” she continued. “Or—”

“Dark magic,” I finished for her.

“Dark magic,” she repeated, confirming.

I didn’t understand why they’d want my wolf to still be active… but powerless.

“I just got an alert that your blood work is in,” Hannah said, turning away. “I’ll be back.”

She was only gone for a moment; I hadn’t seen her take out a phone or anything, so I wondered how they alerted her so quickly.

She returned moments later with some documents in her hands. She was staring at them curiously and then she frowned deeply.

“That’s something I certainly wasn’t expecting. However, it makes a lot more sense,” she said, glancing at me like she was studying something before looking back at the documents. “I was curious about that... oh well, I’ll have to speak to Jazzy about this right away. It shouldn’t be an issue... just might need to tread carefully going forward,” she said, shaking her head as she placed the documents down.

What was she talking about?

What made more sense?

“I’ll get the rogue guards to bring you back to the cell now. I’m done.”

Rogue guards?

They were using rogues?

I felt disgusted knowing rogues had their hands all over me. I squirmed uncomfortably but I wanted to know what her earlier statement meant.

“What weren’t you expecting?” I asked. “What makes more sense? Is something wrong with me?”

She looked at me curiously, almost surprised looking. “Oh, you don’t know?” She asked, raising her brows. “Know what?” I asked, aggravation clear in my voice.

“You’re pregnant,” she answered simply. “With twins.”

Chapter 315 A Mental Window

Chapter 315 - My Professor Is My Alpha Mate

Enzo’s POV

Selene grabbed my arm and pulled me up the stairs of the dungeon, leaving Xander behind to rot in his cell.

Good riddance, I thought my myself.

He was a crazy man, and we shouldn’t have been humoring him for as long as we had been. He’s been talking out of his ass since the day he showed up. Max was growing restless knowing we

should be out there searching for our mate. The fact that we couldn't feel her through our mate bond was driving the both of us insane.

"Where are we going?" I asked, annoyed but trying not to sound annoyed.

"Outside," she said almost too eagerly.

Once we were on the back patio, Selene stared up at the sky and took a deep breath. I followed her gaze and saw the hazy outline of the shield that was still very much present. It was meant to protect against dark magic, but darkness could still get inside. Selene was certain that we would be warned if darkness was here though.

I wasn't as certain. That was the one thing I did agree with Xander about, I didn't want to take the chance either.

"Aura!!" She yelled to the sky, surprising me. "We need your help! Please come to me!"

"What are you doing?" I hissed, snapping her a wary look.

She looked at me and narrowed her eyes.

"We need the guardian's help," she said simply.

"And you think screaming for her is going to help?" I asked, furrowing my brows together. "We had to have an entire elemental ritual last time we summoned her."

"Yes, but she left her children behind. She would need to come to get them eventually anyway. Especially now that Lila is gone...I doubt they can feed off Lila's magic with her not being here."

I wanted to protest but she looked up at the sky and began screaming again.

"Child of Aura! Please come to me! I know you can hear me. I can see you at the top of the shield! Come to me!" Selene paused and then added, "Please!"

I stared at the shield and frowned when I saw that the orb was gone. I blinked a few times and looked around confused. I nearly jumped backward when I saw a young girl standing in front of us. She had childlike features and she glowed brightly. She had long brown hair that practically floated around her head like it was a windy day, and she wore a white dress with flowers all over it.

She also had a birthmark on her upper cheek that was in the shape of a star, which I found odd.

She bowed to Selene and when she lifted her head, her bright blue eyes sparkled.

"Hello, Luna, mother of Lila. How may I assist you?"

“Can you tell your mother, the guardian, that we need her?” Selene asked. “It’s important.”

The young girl frowned.

“Mother is protecting the earth from the wrath of darkness,” she breathed. “She cannot be disturbed.”

“She will need to come collect you because my daughter, your energy source, isn’t here anymore. You will need to return with her to the earth. All we ask is a moment of her time while she comes for you.”

The girl’s frown deepened, and she took a deep breath.

“Lila is still on this earth... she is alive,” she breathed. “But you are correct... her energy isn’t as strong. Something is blocking her powers...”

“Can you tell us where she is?” I was quick to ask.

The girl looked at me and proceeded to shake her head.

“She is being held by darkness. It will not let me see in,” she answered.

“Is darkness in this pack right now?” Selene asked.

“No,” she answered. “It is not as of now. But that doesn’t mean it can’t get in.”

“Then that means Xander can tell us everything and not worry about his people being in danger,” I said, ready to turn back inside and get some real answers, but Selene stopped me.

“If his family is at risk, he won’t take the chance regardless,” Selene said, shaking her head.

“He’s not going to talk. But the guardian of Earth sees all, and she might know where Xander is from, which is why we need her. She can tell us all that is in Xander’s mind.”

“He has a mental-bound spell placed on his head,” I reminded her, folding my arms across my chest.

“We have to at least try,” she said, peering at me with pleading eyes.

I wasn’t going to argue with her if it meant getting answers and getting Lila back.

“Okay,” I said before turning to the young girl. “Please... try to bring us your mother.”

The girl looked between the two of us before nodding.

She soon disappeared leaving Selene and me alone, staring at the sky.

“I need to get back to Higala,” I muttered. “I need to search for Lila.”

“Bastien and the warriors are already on it,” she assured me. “We are doing our part in finding her. If Xander has information that can help us, we need to find out what it is.”

“If he actually cared about helping. He would tell us,” I growled.

“He cares for his family; he won’t risk their lives,” she said in return.

We waited for what felt like hours, but in reality, only a few minutes had passed and then the sky opened, just as it did when we first summoned Aura.

A figure floated through the opening and toward us; I stepped back, on alert, though my wolf was oddly calm. It took me a moment to realize what was happening, and then Aura’s glowing and bright face came into view.

She hovered above us with a small smile on her lips as she looked at Selene.

“Hello Luna,” Aura spoke musically. “My child, Trinity, had come to me and told me you are requesting my presence. Did something happen?”

“Yes,” Selene said, bowing her head in respect. “We need your help, Aura. I’m afraid darkness has taken my daughter.”

“Yes...” Aura breathed. “I can sense the girl is in distress. But she is alive and still on this earth. How may I be of service? I’m afraid I cannot be here for long. With darkness lurking around, I must do what I can to protect the earth from the evil force.”

“I understand; this won’t take long,” Selene assured her. “There is someone in the dungeon of this packhouse who holds knowledge. But he can’t tell us what this knowledge is because he fears darkness will hear him and kill those he loves.”

“It is possible,” Aura stated simply. “Though Darkness is not in this pack currently. So, he may speak freely.”

“He won’t,” I said, rolling my eyes in aggravation. “We’ve been trying to get him to speak for weeks, but he won’t.”

“He won’t risk his family or his home,” Selene said firmly, giving me a look before looking back up at Aura. “We were hoping with your presence, he would feel more comfortable sharing what he knows. You can sense if darkness is nearby so he can speak with you without worry.”

Aura was quiet for a moment; she stared up at the sky frowning.

“Who is this man?” She asked, still not looking at either of us.

“His name is Xander,” Selene answered. “We don’t know where he is from or who he’s trying to protect. He won’t tell us anything. But I think it might be able to shed some light on how to save my daughter.”

Aura glanced down at her and to my utter surprise, she floated to the ground. She was a bit shorter than us and when she looked up at Selene, I saw the serenity in her eyes.

“Take me to him.” Selene sighed in relief and looked at me with a faint smile on her lips. I nodded at her and together we led Aura to the dungeon and toward Xander’s cell.

Xander sat up straight, confused as to what was happening and when he saw Aura, his eyes widened in shock.

“Who is this?” Xander growled, untrusting.

“This is the guardian of the earth,” Selene said, motioning for Aura who stepped forward. “She is the one who formed the shield that is keeping our pack protected from dark magic. She can also sense if darkness is nearby, and she doesn’t sense anything in our territory.”

Xander looked at Aura, narrowing his eyes.

“It is true that darkness is not here,” Aura said in a musical tone. “However, I understand your need to keep your home life quiet. I do not blame you for that.”

“So, you get that I’m not going to speak?” Xander said, folding his arms across his chest. “Regardless of how much you tutor.” He shot me a look when he said that last part, making a growl escape the depths of my throat.

“I will not ask you to speak. All I ask is that you grant me permission to see into your mind and to share my findings with my dear friends here,” Aura explained, motioning to Selene and me. “No words need to be spoken. We can watch your memories from the window of light. A window darkness has no access to for it is made up of light.”

Xander’s eyes widened.

“It won’t be able to see?”

“It will not see or hear, even if it was present. You have my word,” she said, bowing her head slightly. “You can share with us anything you’d like to reveal, and it will be kept safe and out of the eyes and ears of darkness.”

Xander looked at her for a long while before looking at Selene.

“You trust this guardian, Luna?” He surprised me by asking.

Why did he trust Luna Selene so much after just meeting her? It didn’t make sense to me.

Selene smiled genuinely and gave him a small nod.

“I do,” she answered.

Xander sighed and then looked back at Aura.

“Okay,” he finally said after a short pause. “I give you permission to use that window thing to look into my mind.”

Aura’s smile was radiant and shone a bright light throughout the dungeon, making me feel the urge to shield my face. But before I had the chance to use my hand to block the light, it was gone. In its place was an actual window, floating in midair with golden rims and the inside sparkled with light.

My mouth nearly fell to the floor; Selene’s eyes were huge and Xander was standing to his feet slowly, staring at it in shock.

“Holy shit,” he breathed.

“Now...” Aura said thoughtfully. “Show us where you are from, Xander.”

Chapter 316 Xander’s Truth Part 1

Chapter 316 - My Professor Is My Alpha Mate

Third Person POV

“Add another pound to these weights,” Xander huffed to his spotter.

There were gasps around the gym as others took notice that this was the heaviest, he had ever benched. Actually, it was the heaviest anyone had ever benched.

“Are you sure?” His spotter asked, nervously looking at the weights left to the side.

“Did I stutter?” Xander growled.

“No, sir.”

He carefully placed the weights and without saying a word, Xander laid back down and began to lift. Everybody was in awe as they watched Xander break another record. Men envied him and women wanted him, that much was obvious.

His muscles popped and it made his many tattoos dance.

“Wow, he’s so strong,” one of the she-wolves in the gym cooed to her friend.

“And handsome,” her friend chuckled.

Xander knew that the men were envious of him and when Xander worked out in the gym and broke a new record, it only made them try harder to impress the she-wolves.

Whatever makes them train better, Xander thought to himself.

“You can look, but you can’t touch, ladies,” a familiar woman said, averting Xander’s attention.

Xander sat up to see Camilla leaning against the door frame of the gym entrance. Her long black hair was in its usual braid down her narrow back. She wore her purple workout bra and a pair of black yoga pants, showing off her incredible form. She had a feminine body, but she also had abs revealing how much she worked out and how strong she truly was.

Her chocolate milk brown eyes turned in his direction and her perfect cherry red lips were tilted upward in a sly smile.

Her olive skin practically sparkled under the illuminating light of the gym, and it made Xander’s wolf go insane.

Camilla; Xander’s mate.

She walked toward him and waved his spotting partner away with a flick of her hand. He dispersed immediately. Camilla placed a delicate hand on Xander’s shoulder, leaving a wave of tingles throughout his body, following her touch.

She motioned for him to lay back down; he did so immediately.

Camillia stood behind him as he lifted the weights, spotting for him.

“How is it possible that you’ve gotten even stronger since yesterday, my love?” She purred, sending Xander’s heart into turmoil.

She was the only she-wolf that could do this to him.

“I have a great partner,” he breathed between sets, making her chuckle.

He placed the weight down and sat back up to peer up at his love. Without warning, he grabbed her around the waist and pulled her into him, making her laugh. She had a musical laugh that made everyone in the room laugh along with her.

As soon as the other men began to chuckle, Xander shot them a warning look, silencing them immediately. They all turned away and continued their own workouts while the she-wolves glared annoyingly at Camilla.

“Are you done training the women gamma this morning?” Xander asked, nuzzling his face in the nape of her neck. He gently kissed her sweet spot, the one he had marked her in only a few weeks ago.

“I am,” she said, running her fingers down his back. “I am free for the rest of the day. I’d like to spend some time with my fiancé.”

He lifted her into his arms as he stood, making her throw her head back in laughter as he spun her around.

“Then, I will clear my schedule so we can spend the day together,” he told her. It’s not like he had much to do today anyway.

He sent most of his warriors on patrol because there had been some rogue sightings around the border. As for the others, they were training either in the gym or the battlegrounds. Xander was planning on going to the battlegrounds and partaking in a sparring match but spending time with his mate sounded like a much better time.

Xander, being the head gamma for the Ero’s pack, trained the men warriors while his mate, Camilla, trained the women. She was his second in command when it came to the warriors. They were an excellent team, even before they mated.

“I need to take a shower first,” Xander told her as they left the gym.

“I will join you,” she purred, winking.

He placed her on the ground, and she took his hand, walking in front of him. She swayed her hips as she walked, teasing him. She knew exactly what she was doing, and his growing erection knew it too.

Xander and Camilla both lived on the third floor of the packhouse. A floor below the Beta and two floors below the Alpha.

The two of them walked across the packhouse parlor, ignoring the looks of other pack members as they passed. They were used to people staring at them; they were a strong couple. They were not only good-looking, but they were physically strong and intimidating. Of course, not as strong as the Alpha and Luna of the Ero’s pack, but they were definitely up there in the rankings.

They were soon joined by the Alpha and Luna themselves as they entered the parlor.

“Alpha Drake,” Xander greeted. “Luna Sophie.” “Just the couple we were wanting to see,” Sophie said with a pleasant smile. “Are you both free this evening?”

“Yes,” Camilla was the one to answer. “We were planning on spending it together. Is everything alright?”

“Oh yes,” Sophie answered. “We were planning on going to eat in town this evening and wanted you both to join us.”

Camilla peered up at Xander as if asking permission, which Xander found funny. Since Camilla joined their pack last year, she and Sophie had become best friends. Camilla ran away from her old pack because her former Alpha was cruel. Camilla was the youngest female gamma warrior in her old pack; she was only 17 when she ran away and met Luna Sophie.

Sophie brought her back to the Ero’s pack and Alpha Drake gave her hospitality. He’s always been kind like that. Camilla worked alongside Xander and when they recruited more women fighters, Camilla took it upon herself to help train them.

She’s only a few years younger than Xander, but Xander always felt this connection with her from the moment he saw her. He didn’t understand what it meant until a few months ago when she turned 18 and they found out they were mates. He didn’t wait to mark her like most would, he marked her a little over a month later. But they are waiting to marry because she always dreamt of a grand wedding.

“We would love to join you; thank you for the invitation,” Xander said, bowing his head slightly in respect.

“No need for the formality,” Sophie chuckled. “We are all friends, are we not?” Before anyone could say anything more, the door of the parlor swung open and a woman, Xander knew to be Eloise, the pack prophet, ran inside.

“Alpha Drake...” she gasped, trying desperately to catch her breath.

Eloise was an older woman, though she didn’t look very old. She was a witch, so she has a lifespan of many centuries. This would be her second century of being alive, however she only looked to be in her mid-50s. She had long silver hair and a fairly fit body, though Xander couldn’t remember any time she was ever in the gym.

She always wore long robes and dresses with a bunch of jewelry, as most witches do. She was also pretty, not that Xander would ever say that out loud, especially in front of Camilla.

Most in the pack find her to be crazy, but Xander knows she isn’t. She could see many things that others couldn’t and sometimes that could mess with her mind. He couldn’t blame her for that; neither could Drake and Sophie.

“Eloise, what is it?” Drake was quick to ask.

“We must talk, I fear our nation might be doomed,” she breathed, tears filling her eyes.

“You had a vision,” Sophie said, stepping toward her to try and calm her trembling body.

It wasn’t phrased as a question, but Eloise nodded.

“Please, sit down,” Sophie told her, motioning for the couch.

“What did you see, Eloise?” Drake asked, watching as Eloise struggled to sit on the couch beside Sophie.

“Many years ago, I had a prophet; do you remember this prophet?”

Drake had to think about it for a moment; Xander remembered the prophet. It remained in his head for years.

The strongest Volana in the world will be born from the product of true love and with her death, a vessel of pure evil will rise. Xander didn’t understand the prophet at the time, but it brought him fear. He had never met a Volana before, but according to most, they were dangerous. They held a lot of power; a power that nobody truly understood. If this vessel were to rise, it would be the downfall of the entire nation.

Alpha Drake had mentioned knowing a Volana and that they were still very good friends. He trusted this Volana with his life, which meant Xander trusted her as well. “The strongest Volana will be born from the product of true love,” Xander recited out loud.

“Oh, right,” Sophie said, nodding. “And something about the uprising and downfall, right?”

Eloise nodded gravely.

“Part of the prophet has already come true,” she explained. “I’m afraid the other part will soon come true as well.”

“Explain what you mean,” Drake said, narrowing his eyes at her.

“Darkness has been conjured, Alpha,” she explained. “I saw darkness emerging from the ground and born from that darkness rises a vessel. A vessel created to be the strongest Volana to ever exist, born for evil.”

“How did darkness create this Vessel?” Sophie was the one to ask.

Tears welled up in Eloise’s eyes again, giving them a glossy look.

“As my previous prophet stated, there is a Volana born from the product of true love; she is the strongest Volana to ever exist, born for good. For this Vessel to be created, darkness must use this Volana as a sacrifice. In other words, this Volana must die for this vessel to rise.”

/Chapter 317 Xander's Truth Part 2

Chapter 317 - My Professor Is My Alpha Mate

Third Person POV

Xander watched as Alpha Drake's face fell. Eloise had just explained that the strongest Volana, born for good, is to be sacrificed to create a vessel that will become the strongest Volana, born for evil.

“Selene...” Drake whispered, looking at Sophie who returned the same worried look.

Eloise shook her head.

“No,” she said, gaining their attention. “She looked like Selene... but she was much younger.”

Sophie gasped.

“Oh, goddess. It's obvious. The Volana was born from the product of true love. She was born from Selene and Bastien.”

“Lila...” Drake finished Sophie's thought.

“Darkness is going to sacrifice Lila?” Sophie asked, looking at Eloise who remained silent, but she met Sophie's eyes, and she could see the sorrow behind Elois's gaze. “We have to warn them.”

“I'll get them on the phone,” Drake said, standing to his feet. “We need to protect her.”

“No!” Eloise said, jumping to her feet. “If darkness is already conjured, it can't know our involvement. It will kill everyone you love; it will come to this pack and slaughter everybody.”

“What? How could a phone cause that?” Drake asked, frowning his brows together. “We can't just do nothing.”

“Because darkness gets into your head. It reads your thoughts; not to mention it could hear the conversation. It’s everywhere. You can’t keep a secret from darkness. We know too much information as it is... if it finds out we are involved, it will kill us. All of us.”

“Then how do we send a warning to them? How do we fight it?”

“I saw in my vision Lila fighting before she was killed. War breaks loose. I couldn’t tell where we were, but I knew it was a battle between light and dark. Lila is there along with her allies. But she puts up a fair fight. She’s strong, even without her Volana powers. They dose her with so much wolfbane, that she doesn’t have the strength or abilities of her wolf. But she fights in her human form, and she’s good. But she’s not good enough. She fights a bit carelessly and it gets her killed. She needs to learn to fight the impossible,” Eloise explained.

“Then I will call Alpha Bastien and Luna Selene and tell them they need to train her better,” Drake said about to walk away, but Eloise grabbed his arm.

“They don’t know what kind of things she needs to train on, and they can’t know. If darkness suspects anything, it will kill them and then it will come here and kill us because we are the ones who warned them,” Eloise explained, shaking her head.

“What if they are able to defeat it before it has that chance?” Sophie asked, staring around at everyone’s pale faces.

“We can’t take that chance,” Eloise said, shaking her head. “In my vision, I was in the form of darkness. It was chilling,” Eloise shuddered. “It can see everything that goes on in that region. It seemed frustrating with some parts of it. There is a territory there made up of Volana wolves and it can’t enter their heads. I think those with Volana blood, darkness can’t get into their heads. But I also watched this vessel slaughtering them along with all other Volanas around the world. Including Selene. ”

“Okay, then we can warn Selene. She’s a Volana. If it can’t read her thoughts, then there’s no harm in her knowing—”

“We can’t risk connection. If it’s already been conjured, it will hear our conversation and trace it back to us,” Eloise snapped, glaring at him. “Are you really going to risk your entire pack? Your family? Think of your young children, Alpha.”

Sophie snapped at look at Eloise. They had three gorgeous kids and Xander knew they wouldn’t do anything to risk their lives.

“We can’t just do nothing,” Drake said, shaking his head in frustration. “Especially when we know this information.”

“There’s more...” Eloise said, her voice shaky. “There’s going to be a dark curse. A curse that will make everybody, including Volanas, powerless. Darkness and whoever conjured it knows

there's going to be a fight to get Lila back, so they created a curse so powerful that it will make everybody powerless. They won't be able to fight it."

"How does it get defeated?" Xander was the one to ask.

Eloise thought about it for a moment, trying to remember every detail of her vision.

"Light," she said, looking up at Xander. "Its weakness is light. But there needs to be enough of it to get rid of it completely. My vision had split into two. On one hand, Lila defeats it, but it doesn't show me how. She defeats it and restores the nation. On the other hand, she dies and the nation falls once the vessel rises."

"If we can't warn them of this danger, what can we do?" Drake asked loudly; Xander could feel his frustration. "It sounds like we are doomed regardless. If that vessel is created, we are all going to die."

"Not necessarily. If the vessel is created, its main target is the other Volana wolves. It'll want to be the only one to exist. Then, it will take control of the nation and rule it alongside darkness," Eloise explained. "It wants ultimate control."

"That doesn't sound much better," Drake growled, shaking his head again.

"Eloise..." Sophie said calmly, stepping toward the prophet. "What do you propose we do?"

Eloise thought about it for a moment and then her eyes widened.

"Lila needs to learn to fight the impossible," she said again. "She needs to stay alive; I believe she must carry a light inside of her that is strong enough to defeat this darkness. If she didn't, then the prophet wouldn't be accurate. She wouldn't be the uprise of our nation. Lila needs to stay alive."

"And how can we be sure she stays alive if we can't warn her?"

"I might have an idea, but I don't know how well it'll work and I'm afraid it's a risk," Eloise said hesitantly. "But I propose someone goes there and trains her."

"Darkness will be able to get into our heads if we do that; you said so yourself," Sophie said, furrowing her brows together.

"I know of a spell that can help. It's a mind-bound spell," Eloise explained. "A mind-bound spell will lock away a person's mind so it can't easily be read. If darkness truly tried, it could certainly get into their mind. It's a powerful force and even my magic isn't strong enough to hold it back. But the spell will at least make it so it would have no reason to dig any deeper than the surface. With the mind-bound spell, it won't pick up on anything sketchy, so we'd be able to train her without it being suspicious."

“That’s perfect,” Drake said, stepping closer like he was about to volunteer his services.

“However, darkness can still be heard so if anything is spoken about out loud while darkness is present, it will hear it,” Eloise continued. “Then cast the spell on me; I’ll go,” Drake said urgently. “We can’t waste any more time. I’ll come up with an excuse as to why I need to train with Lila. I’m a friend, they trust me. I’ll make sure darkness isn’t suspicious of my presence.”

“My magic doesn’t work on you, Alpha,” she said, shaking her head. “You know it’s limited. It doesn’t work on Alpha’s.”

Drake opened his mouth to speak, but Xander cut in.

“Then, I’ll go,” he said, much to Camilla’s dismay.

She gasped at his words and grabbed his arm.

“Xander, no! It’s too dangerous.”

“If I don’t go, we are all doomed. Including you and I can’t let anything happen to you,” Xander told her gently, touching the side of her face.

“Xander…” Sophie breathed, surprised by this.

“I am the best fighter that you have, Alpha,” Xander said, looking at Drake. “Allow me to do this for our pack. I will find an excuse to train with her and I will get her ready for the fight of her life. My main priority is to make sure she stays alive so that vessel is never created.”

“You cannot tell her what pack you are from and who sent you,” Eloise told him firmly. “You cannot give them any reason to search deep into your mind. Or give darkness a trail to this pack.”

“I would never put this pack in danger,” Xander said firmly.

“Xander… please don’t do this,” Camilla sobbed. “I can’t lose you…”

Xander wrapped his arms around his mate and held her close.

“You will never lose me,” he breathed. “I’m doing this to protect you. If I don’t… then we are all in danger and I couldn’t live with myself if I let that happen.”

She cried into his broad chest.

“Are you sure about this, Xander?” Drake asked, stepping toward him. “They don’t know you, so trusting you will be hard.”

“They don’t need to trust me,” Xander said, glaring at his Alpha. “I need to make sure Lila is prepared and stays alive. That’s my only job.”

“Lila goes to the Higala school for shifters,” Sophie said softly. “She’s in the shifting and combat class with Alpha Enzo. You might be able to co-teach that class. That will give you probable cause to train her.”

“I’ll speak with the headmaster when I get to that region,” Xander said nodding. “I might know a couple of them on the board, so getting a job will be easy.”

“I will go over everything you need to train her on,” Eloise said, peering up at him. “I will inform you of the entire battle as I remember it and all the mistakes she’s made that caused her death. That way you can train her properly and truly prepare her for this battle that will soon happen.”

Drake placed a hand on Xander’s shoulder.

“You’re a good Gamma, Xander,” he said, nodding his head.

“I have faith that you can do this with ease and return to us safely. Return to your mate safely,” Sophie said gently.

Camilla sobbed again.

Xander turned to Eloise.

“Cast the spell on me... I’ll do it.”

Chapter 318 Who Let Her Out

Chapter 318 - My Professor Is My Alpha Mate

Lila’s POV

I was shoved back into the cell like I was an animal. I couldn’t even begin to process what I was just told.

I was pregnant?

With twins??

I couldn’t be pregnant. Could I?

I was on the pill, but I knew those weren't 100% effective. But they were supposed to be close to it. At least I thought so. I tried to always remember to take my pill in the morning, but with everything going on these last few weeks, it's possible I could have forgotten.

How long have I been pregnant for?

I stared down at my bare belly; I was still naked. They didn't give me any clothes and I felt incredibly exposed. I placed my hands on my belly, frowning. I didn't feel pregnant, but I suppose if I was early on, I wouldn't feel anything yet.

My body trembled as I ran my fingers across my skin; if she was telling me the truth, that meant my body was no longer my own. I was fighting for the three of us now.

Twins.

Holy shit.

Enzo was going to lose his mind. How was I going to keep this a hidden, and secret from everyone now? They'd be wondering who the father is. Not that it matters right now anyway, but assuming I'm getting out of here, and everything will return to normal, there's no way I'll be able to hide this from the school board.

Tiffany Prescott was going to lose her shit.

There was a lot I wanted to do before I had any children; I at least wanted to be finished with school first. I still had a couple of years before graduation. Would I be able to still graduate and have these pups?

I guess I didn't have a choice now; regardless, these pups were coming, and I had to do everything in my power to keep them safe.

I leaned against the cold cement wall, pressing my knees close to my chest to keep my breasts and the rest of my lady bits hidden. The last thing I needed right now was for those nasty rogue guards to cat-call me.

"Our mate will come for us..." Val whispered tiredly. I knew she was exhausted; even though the wolfsbane was seemingly enchanted to keep my wolf around, and yet make us extremely powerless, it still took a lot out of her.

She could feel everything I was feeling, and she couldn't even hibernate to avoid it. My heart ached for her. I felt awful that she had to experience this too.

I was wrong... it wasn't just the three of us I had to protect.

It was the four of us.

“I know...” I told her in return. “He will come for us.”

....

Enzo’s POV

The window disappeared in front of us as the picture faded back to a blank image of light. I stared at the window with my mouth hanging open.

Of course, I had heard of Ero’s pack. It was a faraway pack, too far for the Alpha of that pack to be in the Alpha Committee, but I knew Alpha Bastien wanted him on the team anyway. But it was declined by the Alpha.

I had never been to that pack, and I had never spoken to that Alpha before. But telling from Selene’s face, she knew that Alpha very much. She staggered backward with her hands covering her mouth.

Xander slumped back against the cell, sliding to the ground with his legs arched and his arms resting on his knees. He looked defeated and a little ill. Probably because he had just seen his home and his mate right in front of his face.

I could tell, despite Aura promising that darkness could not see or hear the window, he was still worried that he had just doomed his entire pack.

I knew Selene wanted to ask him more questions, but she knew he wouldn’t have a chance to speak about it out loud.

“I must return to the earth,” Aura said, staring up at Selene. “There isn’t enough energy to keep my children. It is deteriorating as we speak.”

“Deteriorating?” Suddenly I was very alert as I stared at Aura. Max was also on high alert. “Is it Lila?”

She nodded.

“I’m afraid so,” she said, staring up at me. “She is alive. But her energy is weak. It’s not enough to keep my children here. They need to return to the earth, or they too will be weak. However, I will keep the shield placed a little longer. It will give you time to regroup and discuss your next plan. My children will alert you if darkness is here.”

“Thank you so much, Aura,” Selene said, bowing her head.

“I am happy to help, Luna,” she said in return, also bowing her head. “It has been most wonderful knowing you. Perhaps we will speak again someday.”

“Maybe so,” Selene said in return.

On that note, Aura glowed so brightly that this time, I shielded my eyes. When the light went out, Aura was gone.

“But we still don’t know where Lila is,” I said impatiently. Max wasn’t going to remain calm for long; he was on the edge again, wanting to get back to Higala to search for our mate and I was about ready to forfeit my control over to him.

Selene was still staring at Xander with an expression I couldn’t read.

“Let him out,” she murmured.

I snapped her a look, but she spoke again, and this time more loudly.

“Let. Him. Out.”

I didn’t hesitate; with what we knew about him now, there was no point in keeping him locked up. Lila was right; he was trying to prepare her for something. He wasn’t a danger. I hated to admit it, but I think Xander truly was coming from a good place.

If roles were reversed, I wouldn’t have risked Lila’s life or my pack either.

I sighed and grabbed the key to his cell. When I unlocked it, I was surprised he hadn’t moved.

“You can come out,” I muttered, turning my back to him.

Selene rushed into the cell and threw her arms around him, surprising me. I watched as she sobbed, holding onto him like her life depended on it.

“I know you don’t want to talk about it... but we are protected for the time being. They will tell us if darkness is around. I’d like us to use this time to speak freely. We are going to do what we can to protect your home and your love.”

He held her back, and for the first time since we captured him and tortured him, I saw real pain in his eyes.

After a moment, Selene stood to her feet, bringing Xander with her and then she turned to me.

“We don’t have long,” she said to me, wiping the tears from her eyes. “We can’t stop this dark curse from coming. It’s going to make us powerless. We need to band together.”

“We need to find out where they took Lila,” I told her for the final time. “We have to get back to Alpha Jonatha’s pack.”

“I’m sure that asshole had something to do with it,” Max growled from within me.

“Darkness has her,” Selene said between her teeth, and I could see the anger in her eyes. Not directed at me though, it was directed toward the darkness and those who took her daughter from her. “And we already know who conjured darkness.”

“Jazzy...” I said out loud, mimicking her thoughts.

She nodded slowly.

“So, if we find Jazzy, we might be able to find Lila,” I said, now understanding where her mind was heading.

Selene was right; we are getting closer to finding Lila without physically searching Higala. I need to learn to trust her more. She had that determined look in her eyes that I have come to know and adore. Lila often had that same look in her eyes whenever she thought of an idea as well and I wondered where she had got it from.

Now I knew.

“I’m going to call Bastien and have him return here. We can keep some of the warriors on patrol to see if they can pick up her scent. But I don’t think we should tell him everything over the phone. Especially now that we know the lives that are at stake,” she said, glancing at Xander, who gave her a small and somber nod. “This area is a safe zone for right now, so we can tell Bastien everything once he gets here.”

“He will need to hurry then because we don’t know how long we have the shield for,” Xander said in return.

“In that prophet, Eloise saw a war,” Selene reminded us. “She also saw us fighting in it. This means regardless of what we do... it’s going to break out. All we have to do now is be prepared.”

Xander looked around as if he worried darkness was lurking around the corner.

“Aura is giving us time to speak; we are safe, Xander. You don’t need to worry,” Selene told him, placing a hand on his shoulder.

“I swore an oath to protect my pack,” he said, standing tall and proud. “I can’t risk their lives, but my Alpha trusts you with his life. So, I trust you as well.”

“Whatever you need to say, say it now, and then let’s get moving. I’m not sticking around here much longer. My wolf is going crazy,” I growled.

“Agreed,” Selene said. “We need to prepare everyone we can for this war, and I need to get Bastien up to date. So, if there’s anything you need to say, please speak, Xander.”

He met her eyes and then gave her a small nod.

“There’s something else that I didn’t have the chance to show you through the window,” Xander said, staring between the two of us.

“What is it?” I urged impatiently.

“How that dark witch escaped her cell,” he said slowly, meeting my eyes. “Or rather... Who let her out.”

Chapter 319 They Are Mine

Chapter 319 - My Professor Is My Alpha Mate

Lila’s POV

I don’t remember when I fell asleep, but when I woke up, I saw a familiar face standing on the other side of the cell.

Jazzy stood in front of me with her arms folded across her chest. She was staring at me like she was examining a science project. The healer, Dr. Hannah Laureen stood beside her, cocking her head at me as if she was also staring at a science project.

“Pregnant?” Jazzy muttered, shaking her head in dismay. “How did that get missed?”

“You wouldn’t allow me to do an examination right away,” Hanna reminded her.

“I meant before that. How was it not known information?”

“I don’t think she knew,” Hannah said, glancing at her briefly. “I believe it was new information for her as well.”

“How long has she been pregnant?”

“Maybe two weeks,” Hannah answered.

I felt heat creeping around my face. I was two weeks pregnant?

Instinctively I touched my belly; my trembling fingers finding the place where my pups would be growing. With this new knowledge, Val was extra defensive. She was going to do whatever it took to protect our pups, just like my mother did whatever it took to protect me.

I had heard stories of when my mother was pregnant, and she did what she could to make sure I was born into a good environment. She sacrificed her entire life to make sure I was safe, and I was determined to do the same thing with my pups.

Twins.

I still couldn't get over that fact.

"Is this going to ruin anything?" Jazzy asked, turning to face Hannah. "Can she still be used to create this vessel?"

"Yes," Hannah said, bowing her head slightly. "She can still be used. But we have to make sure she remains healthy." "Then do what you can to keep her healthy," Jazzy growled. "We can't use her until the red full moon tomorrow night, so I expect her to still be healthy tomorrow night."

"Yes, mam."

Hannah glanced down at me, giving me a look that almost looked like remorse. I wanted to ask her more questions about this pregnancy, But I figured it would be better if I kept my mouth shut while Jazzy was in the area.

There were guards nearby and instantly smelled their rogue scent, which made me want to vomit. Enzo's mother was technically a rogue, as was her entire village. But they didn't smell anything like that. These rogues smelled just like Paul's men; in fact, I'm pretty sure they were his men.

Which meant they were also Blaies's men.

I should have known they'd be working with Jazzy. They wanted to get rid of me and my kind for a long time. Now it looked like they had a window to do just that.

Hannah nodded at them and without hesitation, they unlocked the cage they were keeping me inside and they marched over to me. As they grabbed my legs and arms, I struggled against them, but the chains that bound my limbs burned my flesh, making me scream and fall limp against them.

I didn't want to hurt myself knowing I was now a cage for two unborn pups. My heart was racing rapidly in my chest as they carried me out of the cage on Hannah's demand.

"Where are we going?" I found it in me to ask.

"To my clinic," she answered, following closely behind. "I'd like to do another examination to make sure your pups are healthy."

I didn't ask any more questions; truth be told, I wanted this examination. But I wished these nasty rogued wolves weren't manhandling me like this. I didn't want their greasy hands on my body even if they were just carrying me to the clinic.

As we walked through the many corridors of this obvious warehouse, I tried to take in everything that I could. I instinctively knew I had to be on high alert and utilize the senses that worked.

I took in the rogues who were guarding certain doors, I took in every sign and every detail of the walls and floor plan. I took in all the stairwells and the windows. The windows were fairly high up so I couldn't see outside but could glimpse a couple of trees.

We could have been in some kind of forest.

There was machinery crowding some areas, but I couldn't tell what they were for. I breathed in the musky scent of the warehouse but nearly gagged at the rotten smell.

Was that old meat?

It smelled like meat that's been sitting and rotting. Maybe this warehouse was used as a butcher or even a slaughterhouse. It would make sense with these strange pieces of machinery; I shuddered at the thought of them keeping me in a slaughterhouse.

"Should she be awake right now?" One of the rogues grumbled as they continued to follow Hannah.

"It's not like we are going far," Hannah said in return.

She stopped in front of an elevator and then she entered something into the keypad, I squinted to try and get a better look at what she was entering, But my vision was a little blurry and the way I was positioned, it was hard to get a good look.

But I think I saw a 6, a 5, and maybe even a 3. But there were a bunch of other numbers I didn't catch.

The elevator door opened, and everyone stepped inside. I felt claustrophobic in this small metal box and when it moved, my heart nearly jumped not my throat. It creaked loudly and it shook as it moved upward.

I certainly didn't trust this elevator, but then it finally stopped.

Looking at the floor number, we were on the 2(nd) floor.

There looked to only be two floors.

Maybe there were windows I'd be able to see out of once we left the elevator.

The doors opened and we stepped into what looked like a casual lobby. It looked like a doctor's office. Were we in the basement of a doctor's office? Why would the downstairs be a slaughterhouse?

I couldn't help but cringe at the thought but was even more disappointed when I saw there weren't any windows.

We walked through the waiting room and entered through a set of doors. I recognized this room as the clinic I had woken up in previously. The room where Hanna told me I was pregnant.

They took me over to the bed where the chains were placed and I found myself struggling again, not wanting to be chained to this bed. But the silver once again burned my flesh as I struggled.

It must have been enchanted to do that if I struggled.

This was definitely the work of dark magic, I thought to myself.

"Step outside," Hannah told the rogues. "I need to examine her and it's quite invasive. I don't need you breathing over my shoulder."

They looked at one another questionably before rolling their eyes and leaving the room. With them gone, I felt like I could finally breathe. I didn't trust Dr. Hannah Laureen, but I liked her better than the rogues. At least she didn't manhandle me, and she might be able to answer some of my questions.

She walked over to the counter in the distance and rummaged through some equipment before coming to my bedside.

"I'm just going to check on your twins with this ultrasound machine," she explained as she rubbed a cold jelly on my lower stomach.

"How did you even know I was pregnant with twins from just my blood results?" I asked, furrowing my brows together.

It was a question I hadn't thought about until just now.

"I don't have just the ability to heal; I can also see auras," she explained. "You have three auras all at once. Which didn't make sense at first. Usually, if you have multiple-colored auras to show your moods and personality, it would be jumbled into one. But you have three separate auras, which is very uncommon."

I wanted to touch my stomach again, but the chains prevented me from doing that.

"They are the auras of my pups?" I asked, looking up at her.

She nodded.

"When I got the blood results, it made sense as to why you'd have three auras," she explained. "One belongs to you and the other two belong to your pups."

She looked at the monitor as she placed the wand thing on my stomach. I can't imagine there'd be a heartbeat just yet, or maybe there would be. I didn't know how any of this worked; I was still young, and I wasn't ready to have a baby yet. Let alone two of them.

I wished Enzo was with me; I wished my mother was with me.

"Awe... there they are," she breathed happily. "Do you see them?"

She pointed to the monitor, and I saw two little dots. They were hardly a thing and yet they meant everything to me already. My heart began to beat rapidly in my chest, and I had to fight back the tears.

Hannah also looked pleased, which confused me. If they were planning on killing me, then my pregnancy shouldn't matter to her.

She seemed to have seen my confused face and she straightened her shoulders.

"Seeing a new pregnancy always makes me happy," she explained.

"Are they healthy?" I asked, trying to keep my tone even and unbothered.

"They seem to be," she said, staring at the monitor. "As long as we keep you healthy, that is all that matters. It's a shame they won't grow any further than this."

My heart shattered and Val whimpered at her words.

She turned off the monitor way too soon; I didn't get a chance to really let it soak in that I was staring at my pups.

She turned away and went back to the counter only to return moments later with a syringe. I tried to jerk away but was instantly burned by the silver chains, making me hiss in displeasure.

"Hold still," she warned.

"What is that?" I asked, not wanting her to stick me with another syringe.

"It's to keep you and your pups healthy," she answered. "It's like antibiotics. No need to worry. We must keep you alive until tomorrow night."

The syringe stung as she stuck it in my neck.

During the examination, she took some more blood, gave me a few more shots, and did a close examination of my lady bits. No wonder wanted those rogues to leave.

Once she was done, she called for the rogues to return and bring me back to my cell.

They practically threw me back into the cell and I landed against the hard ground with a thud. I instantly grabbed my stomach to protect my unborn pups.

They were real now; I saw them with my own eyes. They were mine.

I remained in the dark cell for what felt like an eternity, going over in my head how the hell I was going to get out of there. I needed to find a way to reach Enzo through our bond. I needed him to get here with an army and save us.

But I also knew wherever I was, it was blocking the bond from reaching him. I doubt he could even smell me.

I heard someone approaching, making me crawl back into the darkest corner of the cell.

“Are you sure she can’t get out?” I heard a familiar male voice saying from close by.

“Yes, I’m sure,” Jazzy said in return. “By this time tomorrow, your daughter will become the strongest Volana to ever exist and this one will be dead.”

“Do whatever you have to save my daughter from her horrible fate,” the man said.

I held my breath, waiting for this man to step closer and into the light. Once he did, my entire heart fell deep into my stomach, and I had to stifle a scream as I stared at the face of Alpha Jonathan.

Chapter 320 They Are Going to Kill Her

Chapter 320 - My Professor Is My Alpha Mate

Enzo’s POV

It took less than 30 minutes for Alpha Bastien to join us back at my packhouse. Selene explained everything to him while the shield was still in place.

Bastien ran his fingers through his hair, shaking his head as she explained everything to him.

“So, we need to find Jazzy,” Bastien said, meeting my eyes. “Any ideas on where she could be?”

“No, but we know someone who does because he’s the one who broke her out of here,” I said in a low and threatening tone.

My wolf was on a rampage, and it was taking everything I had to not forfeit the little control I had left. We were in my office, and I had already knocked down almost everything. Dee was going to have a field day replacing all these items after she had just gotten me new stuff recently.

My wolf has a temper when he's angry.

Xander was leaning against the furthest corner of the room with his arms crossed in front of his chest and his head tilted downward. I knew he was worried about his pack and his mate, just like I was worried about mine.

“What are you talking about?” Bastien asked, staring at me. “You know who broke her out of here?”

“I do now,” I said, staring at Xander.

“He didn't know I was awake when he came in and broke her out,” Xander explained. “But it was Alpha Jonathan.”

“What?!” Bastien growled, shaking the entire office and probably the entire packhouse as well. “What do you mean Alpha Jonathan broke her out?”

“Exactly what I said,” Xander said through his teeth. “He had a key to the cell and unlocked it. I'm not sure how he got it, but he did. He broke her out and they took off together.”

“My question is, why would Alpha Jonathan break out Jazzy? What business would he have with her?” Luna Selene asked, looking between everyone with furrowed brows.

We all fell silent as we thought about that and then Bastien and me shared a look.

“Sarah,” we said at the same time.

“Jonathan's daughter?” Selene asked, raising her brows. “What about her?”

“She was cursed when she was a baby; whenever she uses her abilities it makes her weaker,” Bastien explained to his mate.

“It will soon be the cause of her death,” I finished for him.

Selene gasped upon hearing this.

“Sarah is dying?” She asked and I saw the remorse in her eyes.

I nodded.

“Looks that way,” I answered.

“Why was she cursed?”

“She was cursed by a witch when she was an infant,” Bastien explained. “I think it’s because Jonathan did something to this witch, but he didn’t elaborate.”

“It wouldn’t surprise me,” Selene said, folding her arms across her chest. “So, do you think Jazzy promised him that she would save his daughter if he helped her?”

We were silent for another moment longer; I feel like it’s more than that. I feel like Jonathan is more involved than we are thinking. I didn’t trust that guy from the very beginning, and now I really don’t trust him.

“Lila went missing in his packhouse,” I muttered. “He’s definitely more involved than we think.”

“I agree with Enzo,” Bastien said, nodding his head at me. “Jonathan is supposedly searching with the other warriors for Lila. But I hadn’t seen him since we left for the search.”

“That bastard,” I growled, clutching my desk, and trying desperately to keep my wolf inside. But he was throwing himself against me; he wanted Alpha Jonatha’s blood on his claws and in his teeth. He was desperate to rip that Alpha’s throat out and tear him apart until there was nothing left.

I hadn’t even realized I was growling in fury until Bastien placed a firm hand on my shoulder to keep me in place.

“We need to have clear heads. We don’t know where this war is going to break out and I’d like us to be in the right spot. If Jonathan is involved in this, we might need to return to Higala.”

Finally! I didn’t want to stick around here if Lila was back there.

“The strongest Volana will either be the uprising or the downfall of the nation,” Xander breathed like he was reciting something. We all looked at him with frowns. “When the Volana dies... the vessel will rise.”

“What?” Selene asked, narrowing her eyes at him.

“It was the prophet Eloise had told us. Long ago she had a vision about the uprising and downfall of the nation. The strongest Volana to exist was the cause for both. I never understood how it was possible. But now I understand that the Volana being born from darkness will be the downfall and Lila, who was born from light and love, will be the uprising,” Xander said, meeting Selene’s eyes.

We were all silent, allowing that to process.

“When the Volana dies... the vessel will rise,” Selene breathed as if she just understood something. “Volana born from darkness must be the vessel. And in order for this vessel to rise, the Volana made from light and love has to die.”

“Yes, we already know. They are going to try to kill Lila to create this vessel,” Bastien growled, annoyed. “Repeating ourselves isn’t going to help.”

Xander went to open his mouth to speak again, but my words cut him off.

“Sarah,” I said quickly; Xander met my eyes and we both shared a look of understanding.

“Want to share your thoughts?” Bastien asked, sounding even more annoyed.

“Sarah is the vessel,” I said, looking at him. “That’s what Alpha Jonathan wanted. He wants to turn Sarah into the strongest Volana. He wants to turn her into Lila. It would save Sarah’s life and make her powerful.”

“It would make her a vessel,” Bastien said, shaking his head. “It would hardly save her life. She wouldn’t be able to think for herself. She would be under their control.”

I fell silent again.

“But what if Jonathan doesn’t know that?” Selene asked, staring around the room. “What if he’s blindly helping Jazzy under the assumption that he’s saving his daughter? Maybe he hasn’t been given all the information. He might only know that by killing Lila and using her as a sacrifice, he could turn his daughter into a new Volana. But why would Jazzy want to make a new Volana when she hates them? We already know that Jazzy has a vendetta to rid the world of all the Volana wolves. This could just be part of her plan and she could be using Jonathan to accomplish that.”

“You think he has no idea he’s actually killing them both?” Bastien asked.

I didn’t want to think about Jonathan being the victim of all of this, so I remained silent beside the occasional growling of my wolf.

“I think the young Alpha is right,” Xander said, standing up straight. “We are wasting time standing here. We need to get to Higala and prepare for this war.”

“It might help if we actually knew we were waiting in the right spot,” Bastien said. “Once this war breaks out, we don’t have time to travel from one region to another.”

“Our priority is to keep Lila alive,” Xander said, determination on his face.

I nodded in agreement.

Then, Selene’s eyes lit up.

“Hazel,” she gasped. “And the other Volana’s... they might be able to help us.”

“I don’t want to involve my mother,” I growled.

“She’s right though; Hazel might be able to get some intel on where Jazzy is hiding. She sensed darkness being conjured; she’s powerful,” Bastien agreed.

“Who’s Hazel?” Xander asked, looking between all of us. It was Selene who answered, “Jazzy’s sister.”

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Lila’s POV

I stared up at Alpha Jonathan feeling paralyzed. This couldn’t be real; he had to be fake. I knew Alpha Jonathan was an asshole and I certainly never trusted him, but was he seriously involved in all of this?

“It’s no personal Lila,” Jonathan said, staring down at my stunned face. “I hope you know that.”

“I... I don’t understand,” I stammered, shaking my head at him. “You were the one who’s doing this? But why? What did I do to you??”

I felt tears prickling the corner of my eyes, but I fought to keep them away. I wasn’t going to let this man see me cry. I chewed on the insides of my cheeks and glared at him like I was trying to burn a hole in his face.

“It’s not you, I assure you that,” he said, waving me away in dismissal. “But as you know, my daughter was cursed as an infant. There isn’t much I can do for her, but I do know if I turn her into a Volana wolf, she won’t die from the curse.”

I furrowed my brows together.

“You’re turning her into a Volana?” I asked, staring at him with disbelief, and then my eyes flickered to Jazzy who stood in the distance, glaring at me.

“In order for us to turn her into a Volana, we need to use you as a sacrifice. Sarah will consume your blood and during the full red moon ritual that Jazzy performs, she will be reborn into a Volana, and her curse will be broken. So, in reality, you are actually saving her life. It’s too bad that you won’t be around to see it.”

I shook my head, still trying to wrap my head around it all. I heard Jazzy talking with Hazel and some of the rogues during my time here and she said she was creating a vessel with my sacrifice. A vessel and a shell of a person who is born to do someone else’s bidding. If they were planning on making Sarah into a vessel, she would hardly be reborn. She would be reborn as a shelled-out version of herself with Volana abilities.”

Alpha Jonathan turned away; he was done speaking to me. But I wasn't done with him.

Jazzy turned too after giving me a glowering look.

“Alpha Jonathan, listen to me!!” I screamed as he neared the doorway. He didn't stop, so I tried to continue. “They aren't planning on turning her into a powerful Volana. They are turning her into a powerful Volana Vessel!!” I yelled. “They are going to kill her!!”

But it was too late; the door had been sealed shut and I was once again left alone with my thoughts.