

## Chapter 0339

Surveillance was a little different finishing out this week. Mina kept going to classes as usual, starting to hint at her and I making up to the people who needed to hear it. I kept going to classes and work and started to appear more like my normal self, leaving some of the broodiness at home. Nickolas made it look like he was going on a business trip so he could spend time out in the field with Alyssa. He and Osiston were less than pleased with her and Mina's stunt that could have jeopardized our mission and he is observing her tracking techniques.

Well, that's what he told her anyway. If I was him and suspicious of the group we have been trying to track down for a year with literally no results. I would assume there is someone inside the operation helping to derail us and I would be spending time with each member of the team in a very close way so there is no way to hide. I don't have any proof that that is what he is up to and I haven't said anything to anyone about it. I am learning to watch and listen more than I talk. It seems to be helping me make better decisions and respond better, although it makes me seem more quiet and reserved, I don't care. Every single word that comes out of my mouth is calculated and serves a purpose. I should have seen what Mina was doing with my gift and stopped it. I got carried away in this lie that we are living. I can see how long term undercover agents could end up

being double agents or switching sides. After a while you start to believe in the lie. I am not here to make real friends, I'm here to help stop a guy that, I am pretty sure, wants to kill my uncle and probably cousin and take over the whole kingdom before moving on to the next one.

Having Mina and I look unsupervised also serves the purpose that we are vulnerable and unprotected. We are back to full on bait mode. So it's our job to get our scent everywhere, look like college students who just broke out of an overprotective cage living it up while our chaperone is away. We don't party, but we have been to every possible gathering, game and campus event since Nickolas' departure.' The one thing I haven't done yet is go to a Thursday run. I need to make up with Tyler and have him invite me as a peace offering, but Mina goes each week and reports back the same thing we saw the first time. The guys basically take turns doing their perimeter check. She did catch a pattern though. Each guy goes out and back and then rotates clockwise to the next group, socializes until it's his turn to patrol again. And there are so many of them that unless you really watched you probably wouldn't catch on. She also found that they only patrol away from campus, not between the bonfire site and campus. So either they feel really safe in their bubble here or someone else is patrolling the same way elsewhere.

I take a different path each day on my solo run to the gym reporting back the different smells, and who has been where recently. I am learning to be a better tracker, especially with

so many wolves mixed with humans as well as the overwhelming smells that can only be associated with a college campus. I have discovered that there are some changes in the scents surrounding the campus. To the southeast of us, about 2 blocks from the forest preserve land, all scents except those of humans stop and the same goes for north of the rec center that we met Tyler to run for the first time. The scent block seems to extend east into the forest that reaches towards the coastline, which is what we expected, but we have never noticed it until now and the fact that it is on campus has all of us worried about girls being taken again.

The scent block is like an invisible fog that is stealthily creeping across the campus covering more and more each day like a suffocation. With my brand I don't feel lustful emotions, but when I step into the scent block I feel a pull deep in the pit of my stomach. The pull doesn't lead me anywhere...yet, but I have a feeling, like the pied piper, that pull will eventually have a direction. It's like a slow haze or a tolerance build up that if you aren't looking for it, you wouldn't even notice it developing.

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## Chapter 0340

It's been a little over a week since I started recognizing and talking to other people again. I turned my phone on all the time and even opened all of Tyler's apology texts so he can see that I have read them. I still haven't responded, I haven't talked to him in a month, this has to be slow. I also started wearing the choker necklace. I figure if Tyler is going to forgive me, he's going to do it while looking at a piece of jewelry around my neck that means a lot to me and from another guy. It's really too fancy to wear everyday, but I feel better with it on, almost like my head is clear having something from them so close. Same with the bracelets, It feels wrong to take them off somehow, Like i feel physically ill when I take them off to shower or workout.

There are so many games to relationships, it's stupid. I wish that I didn't need Tyler to think that I was slowly forgiving him, but that is the only way he will trust me. This is why I am a better warrior. I can beat the sh\*t out of someone for pissing me off and then call it a day and move on with life. These games are exhausting. 1

I got to my Ecology class early and sat in my former spot, where Tyler, Mike and Robbie still normally occupy. It would be my luck that I decided to talk to them and they aren't here today. I waited for what seemed like forever, the class was basically full with only a minute or two to start when

finally all three walked through having what appeared to be a very serious conversation. None of them noticed me until they were three rows from the top. Mike saw me first and just stopped, Robbie then Tyler bumped into him.

"What the hell man?!" Robbie hissed. "Move your ass before we get in trouble."

"I think we need to find different seats today." Mike does not take his eyes off of me when he talks. I can smell the nervousness wafting off of him. Why is he nervous?

The other two look around to see what has him in a panic. Robbie sees me and just scowls. Tyler looks just as nervous as Mike, swallowing hard enough for me to see his Adam's apple move.

"Fine." Robbie grumbles and heads back down a few rows where he and Mike take seats at the end of the row.

Tyler nods to himself and slowly walks over to me. "Hey." He whispers, but then says nothing else.

"Hey." I say a little curtly keeping my focus on him.

"It hasn't been the same without you. The class is more boring without you asking a million questions." He gives me a small smile.

"Well, I haven't been up for a lot of extra chatter lately." I shrug. He's going to have to work harder than that.

"I know it's not the time or the place, but I really am sorry. I


was jealous and I was already angry at some news I had gotten right before we met up with you. I'm not trying to make excuses, but I didn't handle the situation well."

Professor Chance started in on the lecture and heavily hinted at information being on the final coming up so I turn and started taking notes. Tyler lets out a huff letting me know he's not happy about my ignoring his apology, but turns and gets a notebook out. He angles himself towards me and brushes my knee with his and every fiber of my being wants to move away and elbow him in the nose, but I force myself to sit still and make him feel comfortable, because right now that is what all of this is about. He is going to bring me into the folds of the rogues and it is going to happen soon, or I may end up beating the information out of him.

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