

Chapter 0331

"What about your elders? Don't they have direct access to the Alpha King, they should have called for help."

Tyler huffs a laugh. "Those idiots were more concerned with their titles and being in the Alpha King's presence than actually doing their job. They spent almost no time in our pack or with pack members. Our Alpha was kind of a joke. He wasn't a bad guy, but he was mated to the former Alpha's only daughter and took the title. He wasn't made to be an Alpha. I'm sure the Elders chose him for her. I think they actually ran the pack through the Alpha and Luna. The leaders were very concerned with making the pack bigger and more prominent. I was little when the Luna's father died, so I don't know if he was the same way or if it got bad after my alpha was chosen as the Luna's mate."

He stops to take a breath. If he is acting, he is really good at this. I really feel bad for him and his pack.

"From what I heard, the Elders fled the minute the attack happened, leaving the Alpha and Luna to defend themselves, which of course they couldn't, and are holed up with the Alpha King now. For all we know they are the reason our pack was attacked or they planned the attack themselves to try and get the Alpha King's attention. Who knows. Either way a lot of innocent people died or were captured or worse and no one did a thing about it." That

scary angry look is back. He is out for vengeance, I just wonder if he is aware or not.

"What was the name of your pack?" I'm kind of afraid of what his answer is going to be.

"Former name, Midnight sun. Currently, they are part of the Shadow Pack." My heart stops.

A loud growl and string of curses go off in my head from Osiston and Nickolas who have been listening in. It takes everything in me to stay present with Tyler while they are shouting instructions to the whole team and the warriors back home. The noise is giving me a headache, but I can't shut them out. They need this information first hand, right now.

"I'm so sorry that happened to your pack. Is the whole group we ran with last night from your old pack?"

"Nah, Mike, Robbie and I left as soon as we could. The new Alpha is ruthless and cruel. He stopped all contact with the outside and his warriors use corporal punishment if you don't fall in line. All the men were forced into an army. Any women that were left were taken somewhere else. I never saw any of them again. We had to get out, but no pack wanted a bunch of deserters, we tried, so we are here on our own." He shrugs.

"Well, I am skipping classes today, and you look like you could use a workout of your own. How about we hit the gym

again and this time you will actually get to use equipment.” I stood up and held out my hand to him. He just stared at me like I was crazy. “What?!”

“I just told you that my pack was attacked, my sister was killed, and my two friends and I escaped leaving everyone else behind essentially deserting them and you want to take me to go workout?”

I smile at him. “Yep, that was a load of heavy and when things get too heavy I workout and I am taking you with me. Now let’s go pay for our food, I am going to need an extra minute to change back into my workout stuff. It’s going to be like putting on a wetsuit.” I wink at him and he just chuckles as he gets up to follow me to the register by the door.



We walk back to the gym and I can feel how close Osiston is. I don’t think Tyler is a problem, but I do feel better knowing someone is close. I don’t trust Tyler, but at the same time if even half his story is true, I want to help bring whoever is the problem to justice. Tyler is right, innocent people are getting hurt and dying for someone’s sick desire to have power.

We workout for a couple more hours and stop by the diner again to grab food to go this time. We settled in the middle of campus on one of the sprawling lawns that has benches dotted along the perimeter. The day is actually nice and calm. Not warm, but comfortable enough, the snow is

 +25 BONUS

melting and the sun is shining making everything a little brighter.

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Chapter 0332

"Thank you for today, I didn't realize how much I needed to get that out. Mike and Robbie lived it with me so none of us ever talk about it and no one else has ever asked before." He balls up the wrapper from his sandwich and looks out over the lawn towards the building, but I don't think he sees anything really.

"It's not a problem really. I do have to go though. I work all weekend and since I skipped class today, I want to make sure I am caught up on everything." I stand and he follows.

He wraps his arms around my waist and pulls me into his chest slowly, being extra cautious, but I let him. I wrap my arms under his and rest my cheek on his chest. He leans into my hair and inhales, then kisses the top of my head.

"You make it really difficult to move slowly, you know that?!" He chuckles into my hair and I smile.

"Sorry, occupational hazard of being the baby."

"You are definitely not a baby, but I think you are definitely worth the wait." He kisses the top of my head again and then lets me go. "Do you want me to walk you home? I feel like Mr. Overprotective does not need another reason to kill me."

I laugh, loud, this time. We have been kind of serious all

day. It feels good to lighten the mood.

"So far he has no real reason to do anything to you. You have been a perfect gentleman. I'm sure even you would agree that hand holding, a hug and a kiss on the top of the head is not m*rder worthy."

"That means nothing. I am in your personal space and talking to you. Trust me, that is reason enough."

"I'm good. Mina's class is right over there." I point to a building. "And she should be getting done soon. I'll catch a ride with her, we have plans with my uncle tonight."

"Oh f*ck! I forgot about him. He's a big guy too. I bet he's a warrior, isn't he? Is he going to kill me for talking to you? I don't need some crazy guy coming for me in my sleep."

I'm laughing again, I think he might really be afraid of Nickolas. "Dramatic much? He knows about you. He also knows I have been with you all day." Tyler's eyes go wide. "What?"

"And he's just okay with you skipping class to hang out with a guy who definitely is trying to date you even though there is a seven year age difference and you are still a minor?"

"First, he's not the hover type."

"I hover alright. I'm just not amateur enough to be seen doing it." Nickolas chimes in. 1

"Second, he trusts me to make good choices. I'm not one

to be pressured into things.”

I trust you, this clown I don't trust at all. He may be acting like a gentleman now, but I can guarantee with the amount of fidgeting he has done all day, his thoughts are far from respectable. He's just lucky you are a deadly weapon. I can't wait until he finds that out. I want to be there when he sees you beat the sh*t out of somebody for the first time” Now both Nickolas and Osiston are cackling in my head... Like two old ladies. 1

“Speak of the devil, I need to get going.” I tap my head and smile as Tyler looks around nervous. “I'll talk to you later Tyler.” I turn and walk toward the building.

Once I get around the corner, Nickolas is by my side instantly.

“What are we going to do about the Shadow Pack? If his information is right, Elder Bastian has been playing Alpha Reggie.”

“We're working on it, Midge. Good job today. Let's get home though, never know who's following you.” He winks at me and I giggle.

Chapter 0333

Walking in the house Mina jumps on me immediately. She has me in a hug so tight, I struggle to breathe. Nickolas just walks past me to Osiston sitting at the island looking intently at a computer screen.

"I'm going to need you to loosen up there friend." I gasp and she jumps off of me just as fast.

"I am so sorry!" She grabs my hand and leads me over to the couch and sits me down. "Tell me everything and never make me leave like that again. I couldn't concentrate all day. It was the worst."

"Seriously?! You and I can't be attached at the hip all of the time, that would look weird. He wasn't going to talk with you hovering over our shoulders the whole time."

"Did he say anything we can use? Anything concrete?"

"Yes, we have information to work with. Nickolas and Osiston have the team working on looking into his claims. So we'll see I guess. He said Mike, Robbie and he were all from the same pack and it was attacked and no one came to help." I told her the rest of Tyler's story trying to see if I could find any holes in it and looking to Osiston and Nickolas for their thoughts on parts of it.

"It all sounds plausible, really." Osiston says from across

the room, not looking up from his computer. "The attack probably did happen and if none of the Elders asked for help and the Alpha didn't know he could also contact the Alpha King in an emergency the whole attack could have gone down like that without anyone knowing. That's a lot of ifs though."

"The big questions now are; Did the Shadow Pack really take over Midnight Sun? That pack isn't even a part of Alpha King Reggie's territory but it is a part of the northern border. Did they get training in this army? Did they actually leave of their own free will or are they scouts no different than the two of you, gaining information for whoever this new Alpha is." Nickolas talks over his shoulder while he makes dinner. "I think that is the first piece of the puzzle we need to solve. Did a pack really get consumed by the Shadow Pack and is Alpha Sharp a part of it or is he unaware that someone is using his pack's name to attack and claim pack territories?" 1

Mina and I fell into a routine with Tyler, Mike and, reluctantly, Robbie. We worked out in the mornings before classes and did runs on Thursday nights. Even Janice and her girls stopped being nasty to us. They were not nice and didn't really talk to us, but they weren't outright nasty, so I'll take that as a win.

Tyler didn't talk to me about his pack after the day in the gym either, but he has made a point to text me every day.

Nothing about the past or overly personal is brought up by either of us. We haven't been alone since that day either and I don't know if that is on purpose or really just a scheduling thing. But when we are together he does make a point to hold my hand or keep an arm around me and it doesn't feel forced or fake, he's clearly marking territory. The dynamic is a little strange, but at least I don't have to fend off other guys trying to hit on me. Mina says I'm 'friend zoned' but he's trying to not make it obvious. Mina on the other hand is fighting the guys off left and right, but she seems to be enjoying the challenge.

She isn't getting any more information than I am though. So we are kind of stuck at the moment waiting to see if any warriors find anything with the little we were able to gather.

Mina and I made it out to shop a few times with the crazy double life we were leading and when I saw a kiosk that was similar to the one the guys got my bracelets from, I knew what to get them for their birthdays.

I got them each a thin braided dark brown leather bracelet that has a single, small, black metal bead with the nickname they gave me engraved on it. You have to look close to see the name, the design is less conspicuous than the bracelets that they got me. And it would just look like they all have matching bracelets from someone looking quickly at it. I like the idea of an inside joke kind of thing with them.