

Chapter 0351

I didn't sleep well in the few hours that I did try. I am restless and if I am being honest with myself, I am eager. We have been at this for months now, almost a year, and we finally have information to move on and take action. I would be lying if I said I wasn't excited that we were finally going to move tomorrow. I could feel it in the house last night as the team was making plans and gearing up, many of them have been at this for years, they want to wrap this up, find this rogue king and either kill him or take a step towards killing him. He's enslaving people, kidnapping women, forcefully taking over packs and all for the small gain of becoming the King of our territory. 1

There are so many Alpha Kings, because the world is too big to have just one. There are wolves everywhere and by nature need a strong leader and to be part of a pack. We naturally gravitate towards a hierarchy and as long as everyone does their part we live well. But there is always someone who sees being a leader as being in power or having ultimate power. Those are the people that are never chosen to be a leader, because they miss the point completely. Leaders are subject to making hard decisions that benefit the many, not just what they want personally. It's not about having slaves or people to order around. It's about keeping everyone safe and happy and healthy, putting the whole pack and our race above your own needs. Not all people who want to be leaders should lead, because they don't understand this.


If Alpha Reggie is right and this rogue king is a descendant of the royal line who has been taught to be bitter about the birth order and whatever privileges he thinks he's missing out on he is going to be hard to defeat. His bloodline alone will make it difficult to fight him if we meet up with him, but also a lifetime of hatred and vengeance can make people do crazy things. That's something that warrior training really focused on. Many of the people we will fight believe with every fiber of their being that they are right and that what they are fighting for is right and the rest of the world at large is out to get them. It's almost like a disorder and as much as you can't get sucked into their bullsh*t, you also have to understand where they are coming from to find a crack in their armor that will bring them down. 1

Mina and I got up slowly. She doesn't seem to have slept any better than me.

"I still hate your schedule. Do any of your friends enjoy this part?"

"Nope," I laugh at her, getting ready like I do every morning. She's just following me around looking like a zombie. I'm tired, but my adrenaline is already going in anticipation. "No one likes it and everyone complains. Sometimes, I think that's how I know I am doing something right." She shakes her head and laughs with me.

"I need coffee and carbs, bring me something back from the diner." She says as I get to the door and open it up. I turn around to give her a hug and then step out onto the porch. "Hi Tyler. You don't have to hide, you know. We don't hate

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you, you know." She almost shouts into the yard.

"Well, you don't know me very well then." He steps out from the same spot he did yesterday.



"That's too bad. I'm kind of over all the guessing games." She replies with a good amount of sass.

"Is that why you stopped hanging out with Mike?" He moves closer, hands in his pockets like he's trying to keep them to himself.

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"Yes and no, but more no. He just seemed distracted and like something else had his full attention."

"Someone and something both have his full attention. So you aren't wrong." That glimmer of irritation flashes in his eyes again, but he schools it quickly before turning fully to me. "You ready, I had a long night, but I couldn't sleep. I just need to move."

"Yeah. I'll bring you something from the diner Mina. See you in a couple hours."

"Bye, Thanks." She heads back inside and latches the door before we even take off.

As we jog I am trying to figure out what to say to Tyler. I mean the more information I can get before tonight, the better, but I also don't want him to shut down on me or shut me out and he seems to be on the verge of that all the time right now.

"Do you want to talk about why you have been so different around me lately? Don't act like you haven't." I say as his eyebrows shoot up and his mouth opens with, I'm sure, a denial about to fall out of his mouth.

"I told you it's complicated."

"What about the Luna thing? No one knows who the next Luna will be, until an Alpha finds his or her mate. But, you seem very sure that I will be one and sooner rather than

later. I don't understand."

"It's complicated, but you have to notice that you have gained a lot of attention and not just from me." I roll my eyes.

"I have not had any more than Mina or any of the other girls that run with us. So if you are going to sidestep that question, how about this one? What do you and your friends get up to in the woods? Are you smuggling drugs or something?"

It's his turn to roll his eyes. "Or something." Is all he says. "Let's just workout so I don't get in any more trouble over you."

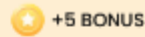
"What?! You've gotten in trouble over me? How? Why? By who?"

"Let's just say that I'm not the only one who noticed you, I was just the first and you happened to decide to give me a chance. That was not taken well by others and I have been punished accordingly."

"Tyler! Why didn't you say something? I could have at least acknowledged whoever has a problem with you and me being friends."

"You have already done that much and no one believes we're just friends. Everyone just thinks we're good at hiding it." He winks at me. Oh Goddess!

I cringe. "Why does everything have to be about s*x? Seriously? That's what whoever thinks? That we are just



really good at hiding our s*xual encounters?" I rub my hands over my face. This is so stupid, in general jealous people are stupid.

"Yep." He says as he opens the door to the gym for me to walk through ahead of him.

"Have you ever just invited them along so they can see it's completely platonic?"

"And have to share your attention, no f*cking way! They will pull the rank card eventually and make it so I can't talk to you at all, so I was not going to give up any time with you that you would allow."

"Seriously?!" I feel like a broken record, even in my own head, but that's the only thing I can think of. Someone thinks they have some kind of claim on me and is just biding time and waiting it out, like they have all the leisure time in the world to mess with me.

"Yeah. So on that note, let's go for some heavy weights today. I think we both need it." He chuckles a bit trying to lighten the mood, but the smile he gives is forced and doesn't quite reach his eyes.

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We do a full body workout, torturing every single muscle, so I know I am going to be sore later on our run, but I couldn't help it. I'm back at being controlled, being someone else's property to do with as they please. My father all but said he only thought of me as a baby machine to produce another strong Beta line and he didn't care about my mate either. If he thought he could match me with someone better he would sell me like a piece of furniture in a heartbeat.

We made it to the diner and at this point the waitress knows our orders and just comes by with drinks and to tell us our food will be out in a bit. There aren't as many people here today as usual on a Thursday morning. I made a mental note to tell Osiston and Nickolas about it.

Tyler and I were back to small talk about classes and our summer plans. I honestly didn't know what I was doing for the summer. I thought about sticking around to take a few classes so I could graduate early and he laughed at me.

"You don't know how to relax do you?" He is openly and loudly laughing at me now.

"What do you mean? I relax all the time." I try to sound annoyed at him, but it doesn't quite hit the way I intended.

"Studying and working out aren't relaxing." He's still laughing.

"Maybe not for you, but it makes me feel good to have

something to work towards." I shrug. "And then once I decide to do something I see no reason to take forever to achieve my goal. Why take four years to accomplish something when I could easily do it in two and a half or three?"

"Because, sometimes not doing anything is just as relaxing as doing everything quickly. Take the time to be with people you care about and just be."

"I'm here with you aren't I? With the exception of the month that I was pissed and doing everything to not punch you in the face, we have done this," I gesture to the diner around us, "almost everyday since we met. This is me relaxing and taking time out to hang out and just be. Our biggest problem is that both of us don't like talking about personal stuff so we don't. That limits conversational topics. Don't push for things unless you are looking at the whole picture. Some of us are worse off sitting still, not better."


Well that shut him up. He just sat there looking at me like it's the first time he's seen me.

"Yep definitely going to be harder than I thought."

"What does that even mean?" I groan.

"I already told you, I was informed that rank was going to be pulled at some point and that I wouldn't be allowed to talk to you anymore. The more I get to know you, even the little you allow, the harder I think it is going to be to let you go."

"Any heads up on when this jackass is going to lay his so-called claim? Because he will figure out the same way you


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did, that I don't do well with being told what I am going to do or who I can and cannot talk to." Now it's my turn to get all broody and dark. Just because I am a female does not mean I am weak and I will not hesitate to put these guys in their places tonight.

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