

## Chapter 0474

"I have Sam and Mateo watching her. They seem to be like me and see both sides of whatever this is. Oh, speaking of which," He takes the backpack he was wearing off and hands me two gallon sized zip top bags with clothes in them.

"What are these?" I'm actually afraid of the answer to this question.

"I know you are having nightmares, so don't lie." He holds up his hand to stop my protest. "I assume Jena is too, so I brought one of Mateo's shirts for her since that seemed to help and I brought you one of Cam and Kota's shirts. And just so we're on the same page I will be taking one of yours and one of Jena's to hide in their rooms. Actually I will need two of yours. Cam and Kota have gone back to being in separate rooms." His look is so pained.

"They don't sleep apart though, they never have." I whisper.

"They did once, remember?" He looks me dead in the eyes. "The last time you left, they slept in separate rooms for almost a year. If I had to guess based on all the crazy ass timelines. It was right after the time you had been captured until you came back to us. They have also taken to dressing alike. Do you remember their social experiment?" 1

"Yeah." I smile and laugh at the ridiculous memory. "That feels like forever ago. They were trying to prove that it was

some kind of great phenomenon that I could tell them apart.”

“Well apparently it helps keep the crazies at bay and even their parents can’t tell them apart. And they won’t confirm who is who. They only speak out loud when they have to. They mindlink everything, and their wolves seem to be a part of all the conversations which change their voices. They don’t trust, and for good reason. They have everyone at arm’s length. Something deep in them knows something is wrong, I can see it in their faces, but they are stuck and can’t fix it alone. Since I have been spending time with you, I have started to see their differences and I think seeing them as individuals without assistance helps them focus, but it’s a huge battle. Sam and Mateo aren’t much better. Mateo has become more angry, he just radiates hostility, that is keeping people away from him. Sam just talks less and doesn’t smile at all. Although Sam might just be sad about Sierra not being here and doesn’t give a sh\*t about anything.”

“What? Where did she go?”

“Don’t know. She left a note saying she had something to work on and she had to leave in the middle of the night because of the lockdown. No one has heard from her since and I think he might be losing his mind a little over it. I think he’s nervous because she turned 18 and we all know that he thinks they are mates, but she bailed before his birthday. I think he’s afraid he lost her.”

Oh sh\*t, that would probably mess me up too. We all know he loves her and it was just a matter of them waiting until they were 18 to confirm their feelings.

"I'll ask Osiston. I was able to connect with him. I have been sending her texts everyday and they show up read, but she never answers. Same with Mina. Everyone is working on this Rogue King thing so they aren't worried about our trivial problems here."

"What's happening here isn't trivial, trust me. This is big, but still really fractured, nothing makes sense yet."

"Oh, there you are! Everyone is wondering where you snuck off too." Oliver and I both jump at Lenny's words. "Better walk home with me then, you don't want them smelling her on you now. They are already not stable."

"What is going on?! Who isn't stable?"

"Your twins are having a rough time fighting the control. They are, however, doing better than the Alpha. But their possessiveness is at an all time high."

"What control? Lenny, what's going on?"

"I thought you would have figured it out by now. All three of them are being controlled. My guess is they ingested something along with a spell. I bet the boys only got a half dose each, which is why they seem to be mostly conscious, but still addled."

“What? Who would do that?”

“I thought you were smart, girl. Who do you think? It worked for her Daddy to gain the control he doesn’t deserve, why wouldn’t she use it to gain the Alpha’s she doesn’t deserve. Now, we need to go and take a very specific route that will help us wear off your scent.” 1

“Speaking of scent, I need those shirts. I want to know if your scent will bring them back to normal. Please.”

“Fine. Give me a minute.” At this point I’m willing to try anything.

I take the shirts inside and switch them out for Jena’s and mine. I seal the bags so they don’t smell me on him. Lenny made it sound like that would be a really bad thing. I walk back outside and hand the shirts to Lenny.

“If they do find them, they won’t do anything to Lenny but question her. If they are as deranged as you both are making them sound, they might hurt you.” I tell a confused Oliver. Then he just nods. “Can you stop by tomorrow? I have my next assignment from Elena and today was the first time I have been able to do magic since we moved out. I think I need you.” I look back at the little fire I made.

“What you need, what we all need is to be together. This break in our friendship is going to get us all killed if we don’t fix it fast.” I nod and move to hug him, but stop. I can’t risk putting my scent on him and just shake my head and take a

deep breath. "I will be back tomorrow, probably in the evening if I can sneak away. I'll see you in passing, on patrols in the morning." He winks and I smile.


He and Lenny walk around the back yard and toward the pack house. It will be a thirty minute walk from here, but I think that's one of the reasons she does it, so our scents can be dulled by the breeze. She also doesn't come in or make contact when she can help it.

I head inside to tell my team what Lenny and Oliver think about the whole situation.

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## Chapter 0475

"Well now that we have some information, I guess their behavior makes a little more sense." Lil shrugs as we dig into dinner. "It doesn't make them any less d\*ckish."

"The Alpha said he had his reasons, but you were on the right track. What did that mean?" Wyatt asks.

We have had the same debate every night during dinner since we've moved in here. So much of that whole situation doesn't make sense.

"There are just too many things going on right now. We can't figure them all out on our own." Jena says.

"And yet, we have to figure out which ones are more important and some solutions may lead to others." I rub my temples, slowly losing my appetite the more we talk.

"Well you and I can work the magic angle a little more, since Lenny is convinced and all but confirmed the Cunninghams have the Alpha under some kind of control and more than likely the twins now too."

"How do we do that, if we can't get near them? We didn't notice anything before and we were all basically on top of each other in the packhouse."

"That's the thing. I think we were too close to everything

and none of us ever thought about anyone using magic here so it wasn't something we were looking for. Typically speaking, wolves don't have or use magic. You are the first shifter I have ever seen that can manipulate magic like a witch. Now that we know we need to look for magic, we can approach it differently."

I nod in agreement. "I will try to get a message to Osiston to get Elena here sooner rather than later, something is wrong with our ability to mindlink warriors outside the pack. I thought she was supposed to be here putting a spell around the pack with her coven, but I haven't heard anything, and it's been like four months. My first thought is magic. I can't imagine the Rogues have stopped their efforts after that small attack was a disaster for them."

"My guess is that attack was a test to see our defenses and how we respond to a basic attack. No idea what they learned, but I do know a few guys got away." Wyatt mumbles over his food. "That isn't good for us, other than we took out quite a few. But, they were probably the weakest rogues and could spare them."

"Well, Oliver said he will come by tomorrow and help too. He's just as natural with magic as I am really. He seems to understand how it works almost like it has its own personality, like it can think and feel and respond to my thoughts and feelings."

"He's probably right. My training was mostly in the physical,

herbs and tonics for health and healing. I never did any casting with my aunt."

"So tomorrow. We join in the patrol and training as normal. Let's see if we can get Sam or Mateo to talk to us too. The more allies we have the better if we have to go after our own leaders as well as the Rogue King and his goons on the outside."


"Let's take a look in the book Elena gave you and see if there is a basic protection spell we can find to protect us and maybe the rest of your guys from whatever Kaley and her dad are using. It will be hard because we don't know what we are fighting, but maybe we can give them a small portion of their brains back."

I nod in agreement. I feel so useless right now and all of the information we keep finding is just that, information. There isn't anything that we can use to take action, so maybe this will be a catalyst. <sup>3</sup>

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## Chapter 0476

We finish and clean up. Wyatt and Nathaniel take their post in the living room which has become our makeshift surveillance headquarters. With all of the talk and blatant reveal of cameras all over the packhouse, none of them have been taken down. Just another sign that they are under some kind of control, but whatever it is, whoever holds the reins doesn't seem to have access to their memory or the information they hold. Cause if it was me, that would have been the first thing I took over, knowing that we have cameras all over the school and packhouse and the pack borders.

We now take shifts monitoring the packhouse, the school and the perimeter. There are only five of us and we are exhausted, but this is the requirement of the mission, we can sleep properly later. If we can gain back some of my friends and hopefully their parents, things will get better, so that's my focus now. 1

Jena, Lil and I pour over the grimoire. It's like a diary, filled with notes about the moon at that moment and the best place to find certain plants at specific times of the year. Then there are notes scribbled into the margins all around the spells and incantations. So many different hands have touched and contributed to this book, I feel special just being allowed to read it. It's not lost on me that my friends

can now read it too. When it first came to me, only I could see the words. I'm not sure what's changed, but I love it. 1

"There!!" Jena shouts as she points to the topmost inner corner of a page. There is tiny purple writing, "To counter an attack start with the most simple solution, cut the cord." She reads out loud.

"What in the hell does that mean?" Lil asks.

"We are looking for a spell to use against whatever Kevin and Kaley are doing, but what if we can find something to just block whatever it is? Something simple to cut the cord of control. Instead of wasting Sky's energy constantly casting a spell to protect everyone."

"Huh, I like where this is going. Elaborate for those of us in the room who don't actively practice the witchcraft." Lil points to herself and I smile.

"They aren't casters so they have to be getting, most likely herbs or a tonic, from somewhere. Meaning they have to go get it and they have to continually give it to them, like for us when Mike had us locked up. We were fed herbs every single day. The spell isn't as strong as when a caster places it directly themselves, no witch is going to tell people that part if people are willing to pay good money for a spell. Especially if they are going to get paid over and over and over again."

"Okay so how do we 'cut the cord' as you say?"


“We need to find something that they can wear, like a stone or an amulet that can block the effects and protect them from further spells. Like Sky is able to fight most spells and poisons, she is literal living proof of that, we might be able to give the guys the same kind of protection.” <sup>4</sup>

My heart lifts. For the first time in a very long time, I have a purpose and a mission where I get to save my friends and not the other way around. So many terrible things have happened and I don't know how we will get past those, but I do know I don't want any of them to die or be harmed. No matter how awful they have been to me. I just can't bring myself to hate them. <sup>2</sup>

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