

Chapter 41. You Don't Know the Pain

LEO.

"Leo..."

She walked over to me, and the moment she touched my back, sending a rush of sparks through me, I felt a wave of calmness wash over me,

The fucking bond.

"I didn't mean it in a bad way. You know. Growing up, everyone called me a freak because I was born with the help of magic, so they found the word fitting. There were even a few people in the pack who refused to acknowledge me because of it. Heck, some still exist... as I got older, I stopped telling my family because I didn't want to always cause them trouble..." She sighed, and I did my best to remain calm. Flaring anger rushed through me, and I wondered if that was why she was so cheerful because inside she was dealing with a lot.

"I know you always say I'm the daughter of an Elite. Although my life is nowhere as harrowing as I'm sure yours has been, I just wanted to let you know that things aren't always what they seem." She moved in front of me, her hand running along my waist, before she placed it on my chest. "It's ok to be afraid. I sometimes am... like right now. I don't know how this will work... with this baby... us... What will we tell our child? Why aren't we together?"

She placed her hand on her stomach, and that intense urge to touch it once more tempted me, but I didn't.

"We'll figure it out..." I said quietly. We would... I would figure it out for all of you...

I saw the vulnerability in her eyes when she had told me her situation.

Tonight had felt like a snippet of the life that maybe we could have... Her, Corrado... our unborn pup... She'd be the mother Corrado would love. Even if she wasn't what I would have expected, somehow, she had won him over, the perfect balance of wild, cheeky and mature...

I reached up, brushing her silky locks back. Her eyes fluttered shut for a second as my fingers grazed her skin ever so lightly.

These sparks... What were they?

So unexplainable...

She leaned into my touch, her head tilting up slightly, and that intense tension returned.

I wanted her.

"Yeah... maybe we will." She responded quietly. We fell silent, but I didn't remove my hand from her hair, my thumb caressing her jaw. I knew what I was afraid of, but I'd never speak it out loud... I was fucking afraid of us letting our guards down once more, only to be cast aside like always...

“Your nightmares.” She whispered, her heart thundering as she tried to focus.

I frowned, for a moment I thought she’d have forgotten... I sighed, looking down into her eyes that were watching me intently.

“After suffering under Endora, watching her torture and experiment on everyone, it was pretty normal... When I was five.... She began to sense that I was stronger than Marcel was as a child and so, she began experimenting on me too. But whatever she was trying to attain wasn’t happening. Her magic never really worked on me as it did with Marcel and the others. I was just someone she never wanted to lose, yet someone she hated... I was only a pup who wouldn’t be able to do any damage to her anyway, for now. But I saw it all, the beatings, the torture, the dark magic... Her sacrificing our own kind... her feeding the scraps of our people to our own. Creating the wendigos... it was sick. No one would hear me... because those who had a chance to do something... well they were under her control or too scared to rebel. I was just a fool to think that there was good in this world...” 2

I turned away, wishing I had a cigarette right now. “There is good in this world.” She replied.

“Is there? Those who I thought were our heroes... our saviours, were allowed to storm into this pack and caused more suffering. I get the reasons, I fucking do. I know the pain when one’s mate is hurt, but then I realised violence is dealt with, with violence. Was there a difference between good and evil when those views and beliefs became distorted and justifiable when it suited us?” 1

Flashes of the past crossed my mind, and I pushed them away. Delsanra Silver... That night when Alejandro and Kiara had broken in, I had seen her struggling to free herself, and so I had secretly unlocked the cell and cleared the escape route for her. She never knew I had helped her back then, and I made sure no one saw me, but I had wanted to help her because she didn’t deserve the torture either.

Sure, when I snuck her food I’d get punished if I was caught, but it was ok as long as I did the right thing Right?

I didn’t really know.

Right and wrong were blurred into one...

“The cherry on top was that it was her mate who did this. She was someone who, as a fucking child, I tried to protect, although I was weaker at the time. I treated all those in those caverns as my people, including her. I wanted to protect them all... I was seven and I was burying the bodies of our dead with my bare hands. Endora would come for me, or Dad would take me to her. She’d tie me up, and all I remember is the excruciating pain that she inflicted on me. I would wake up bleeding after blacking out on the floor, and I would just get up and get back to my sorry life.” I was unable to hide the pain and bitterness from my voice. “Do you know how it felt to drag the dead body of my mother to try to bury her? A body that I couldn’t even recognise after her transformation into a Wendigo?” 4 She reached up cupping my face, her heart pounding and her eyes full of anger and pain. I was unable to stop myself from grabbing hold of her waist. My own emotions were a fucking storm, I had never told anyone that shit. “I’m so damn sorry that you had to go through that... You’ve always helped. You were even part of the battle against the Djinn a decade ago. You had a hand in saving Rayhan’s mother.”

Don't go getting any fucking ideas. I did that because no child deserved to be without his or her parents... I did it because it was the right fucking thing to do... not because of the bastard." I replied icily. "Rafael Rossi... I want to believe that if he knew, he wouldn't have let Rayhan do what he did. I did what I did because it just felt right."

"It shows that you have a good heart... just like Marcel said." She murmured quietly.

No, it just showed that no matter what I did, it was never enough... Selene saw everything right? Were our deeds worth nothing?

"Endora was a monster, who deserved so much worse than she got... You suffered too much, and what hurts is no one knows exactly what you suffered at her hands... you told me to speak to my parents, and I think you need to do the same... But regardless of that... Do you know what I see? I see an incredible human before me, a true leader, one with compassion, strength, and justice. Hell, I can't believe I'm saying this. Did you put something in the whiskey?" 2

"You had a few sips. I never knew you were so easy to manipulate." I replied mockingly. "Oh I'm not, but jokes aside, you are a good person Leo, and I'm lucky that you are the father of my child. He or she will be lucky to have you." I fucking wasn't expecting her to say that.... not after the shit I had put her through... .

Lucky... would that child be lucky?

"What Rayhan did was wrong, and he regrets it Leo... give them one more chance to prove that they mean it. You don't need to be chums with them... but maybe putting it behind you will help you move on, and look to the future." What future?

"How many chances do I give? When someone betrays you that deeply, there's no way to forgive that." I replied, coldly glancing down into her dazzling silver eyes. 2 "There is, if you truly try."

"Could you do it? Forgive Indigo? You even refuse to meet your half-brother, right? When he was just an innocent part of this entire fucked up situation?"

She looked down, her eyes widening with surprise, before looking up at me defiantly.

"Are you challenging me?"

"Maybe I'm just trying to show you reason." I replied huskily.

"Then how about this? Let's make a deal. I'll talk to him... and you, you talk to Rayhan." I frowned deeply at the spark of challenge in her eyes. "Not enough. Talking to your half-brother who didn't do shit isn't enough." She raised her eyebrow, her nails digging into my neck. What the fuck was with this girl and violence? 2 "Fine, I'll visit her grave... I will speak my mind and I will tell my parents how I feel about Indigo...and you, you tell Marcel how hard you had it. It's not fair on you to keep this inside. I think only when we are able to let it all out can we truly move on from it all." She retorted,

glaring at me. "If you weren't pregnant, I'd fucking teach you a lesson. You're fucking violent." I growled, gripping her wrists and yanking her hands away from where she had drawn blood, I pulled her hands against my chest glaring down at her. "Don't change the subject Leo, are you really a scaredy cat?" She taunted. "You were annoying me!"

“I know what you’re fucking trying to do but forgiving isn’t that easy.” I shot back, gripping her hips and yanking her close.

She gasped as her chest slammed against me and she grabbed my shoulders in reflex. Her heart pounded and my dick throbbed at the feel of her against me.

“It isn’t... but I’ve forgiven you for what you did to me... I’m dealing with the fact that you’re only being nice to me because of this pup! I’m trying, and all I’m saying to you is to try as well.

I frowned as I stared down at her.

Try...

“You’re wrong, I’ve never treated you in a certain way because of our pup.” I shot back icily, my gaze flickering to her lips. “Even though you’re the daughter of an elite—” “You do know I’m not a Westwood by blood?” She asked, her eyes flashing with an emotion I couldn’t read.

“Blood doesn’t make family Azura, bonds do. To me, you are and always will be the daughter of Elijah and Scarlett Westwood, and even then, I don’t hate you.” 1

“Their daughter...” A soft smile crossed her lips and she seemed to relax. “Isn’t it funny... that although you hate them, hearing you say that you consider me their daughter really makes me happy...” “You really are a psycho.” I murmured, “Your mood changes like the fucking British weather

“Yeah, I’m a little crazy, but you don’t seem to mind it.” She replied, her hands running up my shoulders, and I tensed, every nerve in my body reacting to her touch. 1 “No I fucking don’t... but don’t go getting so fucking cocky. We both know you fucking like me too.”

“Too?” She asked softly.

Our hearts were pounding as one and I didn’t even realise when I wrapped my arms around her waist, caressing her bare skin.

She bit her lip despite the defiant spark in her eyes. “I’m not sure if being attracted to someone ridiculously hot counts as liking or just an attraction.” She added.

I turned us, pushing her against the window as I leaned against her, my hard cock pressing against her lower stomach.

“Fair point... Then... since it’s only an attraction... I don’t think there’s any harm in giving into that for one night...” I found myself growling huskily. 9

I wanted her... I needed her.

No, I fucking craved her.

I was expecting her to push me away or deny it, but when she ran her hand up my neck, her eyes darkening with a sexy hunger, I knew this was about to be one heck of a night. 3

The consequences? Yeah, there were going to be many... but I wanted this. 2 “Hmm? On one condition.” She whispered in my ear seductively; her arousal scented the air as my wolf’s hunger only grew stronger

mixing with mine, and I was ready to lose all control. "What's that?" I replied huskily, brushing my nose along her jaw, before burying my head in her neck

Fuck, did she smell like heaven and sin...

"Do we have a deal?"

I knew what she meant... The deal to handle our issues...

A taste of her body in return felt like the perfect exchange... Right now, she could ask for the fucking world, and I'd give it to her.. All I wanted was to strip her naked, fuck her senseless, and eat her out until we were forced to stop. "You have a deal, and Schurke Wolf never breaks his promises." I whispered, running my tongue over the mark that adorned her neck, making her sigh softly. "Good to know..."

I bit down on her neck making her gasp.

"Oh fuck!" She moaned, and I knew, deal or no deal, she was mine tonight.

## Chapter 42. Passion & Confusion

### AZURA.

The moment he bit down on my neck, I was gone, lost in the unimaginable pleasure that only he could give me. I turned my head, giving him better access to the crook of my neck. A low growl of approval left him, and I shivered in delight when his tongue ran along my neck once more.

Oh fuck...

He sucked on my neck, hard, making my entire body explode with need and pleasure. I turned in his arms only for his hand to run over my stomach, the other hand brushing my hair back as he continued to pepper my neck with rough, sensual kisses.

His dick was hard in his pants, pressing against me. Damn, I wanted our clothes gone.

Goddess... I wished I could stay in his arms forever... I felt protected.

I leaned into him, relishing in his touch. Every touch, every caress... from the brush of his hair against my cheek, or the way his heart was beating in his chest against my back, or the way his lips felt against my shoulder...

It was perfection.

I don't know what we were, or if this was really happening, but I was going to enjoy every moment of it.

I didn't care about the deal we had made, or how daunting it would be to live up to it when the time came. Because at this moment, one more night with Leo sounded euphoric.

Fuck I wanted this.

This fire, this passion, this heat... His hand slipped under my top and I pulled away slightly, gripping his wrist as he squeezed my boob, making me whimper.

Fuck yes...

I tilted my head up to him, our eyes met, and his other hand wrapped around my neck. He leaned in to kiss me, but I turned my head away, gasping as he twisted my nipple. His lips grazed the corner of my lips, making my breath hitch. I sighed, pressing myself back against him. "Fuck you're a tease." His whispered growl came. I elbowed him lightly. "Oh am I?"

Twisting in his arms, I turned and tried to pin him against the window, only for him to look down at me arrogantly, a smirk on that sexy face of his. "Getting a little overconfident, aren't you?"

He pulled me closer by the wrist, burying his head in my neck. My heart pounded violently when he sucked hard. "Not in a rush, are you?" I countered breathlessly as I pulled away.

"Only as much as you are... your arousal smells fucking good." He murmured, his hand tightening around my neck as he ran his tongue over his lips.

I stuck my tongue out, leaning closer. His eyes blazed as he caressed it with his own pierced tongue. 2  
Oh fuck, this felt good.

I wanted that tongue on every inch of my body... 'It fucking will be... I'm not resting tonight until I've fucked and tasted every inch of this sexy body of yours. All you have got to do is be a good girl and spread those legs for me.' Oh yeah... The heat between us as our eyes locked, our tongues sensually grazing against each others, was out of this world.

Oh, Goddess...

There was just something incredibly sexy about this, the storm of his emotions as he fought to control himself... The way he was moving slow, as if wanting to savour the way I tasted and the carnal hunger in those eyes... 'Fuck...' He growled through the link.

Another jolt of pleasure rushed to my core just as his hand let go of my neck and instead twisted into my hair, yanking me closer as he sucked on my tongue, his lips meeting mine in a rough, intoxicating kiss.

Sparks flew and the only thing I could think of was the way his lips felt against mine...

My panties were probably soaked, and I could smell my arousal in the air as he devoured me hungrily.

Oh, fuck... that's it... He was such a damn good kisser. My entire body felt like it might just give way. I moaned against his lips, feeling him throb against me. The power of the bond and those crazy hot sparks rushed through me like a violent storm. A storm created by the pent-up emotions that we had both fought for what felt like too damn long.

This kiss...

No words could describe it...

My arms wrapped around his neck tightly as he gripped the side of my face and the back of my neck, kissing me harder. 2

The taste of his mouth and his plush soft lips were so fucking good...

Damn...

I moaned against his lips, reaching down wanting more. I grabbed the hem of his shirt and

pulled it off, breaking away from his lips reluctantly to get it over his head. My stomach knotted as he allowed me to remove it, my eyes raking over his perfect body, and I ran my fingers down his chest, letting my nails dig into his skin. Leaving scratches in my wake.

His eyes flashed, and something told me he liked that.

Oh, I could devour him.

I couldn't wait to have his dick inside me once more.

He was a damn sex god. Every inch of his body was perfect and so fucking enticing...

He tossed the shirt to the floor, his muscles flexing as I ran my hand up his traps, grazing the back of his neck.

For a moment, our eyes met once more and time seemed to stand still, his steely blue filled with so many emotions...

So intense...

I couldn't breathe... I

"Fuck you're beautiful." He whispered seductively. 2

Those words made my pussy clench. The way he was looking at me...

I believed them..

Suddenly, he lifted me up, his hands on my ass as his lips came crashing against mine in a bruising kiss.

He began walking towards his room, and my heart began thundering. Flashes from the night of his rejection returned to me with vengeance. The suffocating pain of his rejection as I tried to speak but couldn't, the memory of me crumbled on that floor as I wished he didn't leave. Trying to beg him to stay... The pain of my wolf's heartbreak as she howled in agony. I hadn't been able to breathe... I

"Azura! Azura look at me."

I gasped as his hands cupped my face, snapping me from my thoughts, and I realised we were in his room, and I was sitting on his lap on the bed. My arms were still around his neck, but I had spaced. My heart was pounding violently as I looked around, trying to gather my thoughts. 1

"Baby girl, look at me." 4

I stared into his eyes, wondering if he had sensed my thoughts, and my stomach sank when I saw the storm of guilt in his eyes.

He had felt it... all my emotions.

I slammed my walls up but it was too damn late.

I looked away, hating feeling so vulnerable... Sure I had told him how I had felt but I had never expected him to feel it... "I just... I was... I just—" He pressed his thumb against my lips, shaking his head.

"I didn't realise how hard the rejection was... I hurt you so fucking much... I fucking talk about being a better person but the consequence of my actions—" 1 His phone rang, startling both of us, and I quickly got off his lap, feeling so out of place as I backed away from him. 3 I couldn't place the emotion in his eyes as he watched me, but I was unable to get rid of the memory of that night. I turned my back on him the moment he stood up and answered his phone.

"Alpha. Tracer 7 is on the move, and they are not travelling any of their usual routes." I didn't recognise the man on the other side of the phone as Leo moved past me. Grabbing his laptop, he sat down, flipping it open.

"On it, are you following?"

"No, I'm staying at a distance." "You got your phone with you?" He asked me.

I nodded

"Can you grab it?"

"I'll go get it." Hurrying out to the lounge, I felt confused, realising what we had almost done.

The chemistry between us was crazy, but even in that haze of lust and want, the rejection had left me feeling cold. I could feel her pain in my head, the fact she didn't get to be near her mate... and I realised unless she healed, I couldn't move on from that pain either. 6

I could sense her whimpering in the corner of my mind. I had never felt her presence this strongly since before the rejection. She was getting stronger, but she was in so much pain... I missed her... I wanted her to return to her full strength.

I grabbed my phone, staring at the screen, blankly for a moment. I had a few texts but I didn't open them. I carried it back to the bedroom and unlocked it.

Leo was sitting there shirtless, laptop in his lap, his phone placed next to him, and he was still on call.

"Text your friend Song, just ask her what she's up to." He said, glancing up as he ran his fingers through his hair. 5

And if it wasn't for what he had just said, I would have gotten distracted by his body. My stomach sank as I stared at him before looking down at my phone.

"What's happened?"

"Don't stress it, just text her." He replied,

I nodded. My eyes fell to his hard manhood before our eyes met once more and I realised I had messed it all up. A strange tension had settled between us and he had his walls fully back up and was once more the cold Leo... 3

I tried to focus as I opened Song's messages, realising she hadn't really inputted anything on the group chat.

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But she had sent two private messages.

'Hey Azura, do you think we can video call when you have a moment alone?' 'Azura you there?' Song was not impatient...

"Has he got her?" I asked quietly. "That doesn't sound like her."

I held the phone out to Leo, who took it from me, frowning deeply. He began texting, and I sat down next to him, making sure to leave a small gap as I leaned over to see what he was typing.

'Sure, I can call in a few minutes. Just let me make sure I'm alone. I'll call you.'

'Great.'

"What is going on, Leo?" I asked, looking at the laptop. It was a map with a flashing blue blimp moving pretty fast.

"I had been tracking Skyla, Kataleya & Song just in case he tried something to hurt them. I sent one of my trusted men to keep an eye on Song due to her being the ideal option to target and it seemed Judah may have done just that... Her phone is moving at an incredible pace and she hasn't made any calls in the last few days, only texted and most of those were to you." Leo frowned.

My heart thundered as I stared at the screen.

"If he has Song, he will hurt her." I whispered, my heart thundering with anger and fear.

Anger at Judah, and fear for Song.

I needed to save her.

"Calm down, answer the call like normal, I'm hoping he shows his face it will help... I'm tracking them. We will find them, don't worry." His voice was serious and cold once more and I simply nodded.

He took my phone, pressing just a few buttons. My screen blinked before he passed it back to me. His eyes met mine as I stared at the phone, feeling a little shaken.

"Azura?"

"What?" I replied.

He seemed to hesitate for a second, muting the phone that was next to him. "You got this... As for the deal... we'll consider it done. I won't back out of the promise I made you." He said quietly, looking away. My heart clenched, feeling a mix of emotions, and I nodded, not knowing what to say. So instead, I sat back against the headboard making sure it looked like I was alone.

I took a deep breath, inhaling his scent to calm myself. You got this, Azura. Leo stood up, turning the light up so the room was flooded with a warm light before sitting on

the floor, with his laptop in front of him.

"Just remain calm, whatever you see on your screen, I will see on mine. Don't look away from the screen and make sure he does not realise you are not alone, ok?". I nodded, my heart thumping at the phone in front of me. Taking a deep breath, I called Song, placing a huge smile on my face.

Please be ok...

The phone was answered only for me to be looking at a blank screen.

"Hey, girl." I smiled.

"H-hey Azura." Song's voice came.

My heart sank as I realised that was far from her normal voice. It sounded strained.

"Why can't I see you?" I asked, smiling slightly, although my nerves were a mess.

Suddenly, the phone tilted, and I realised it was some outdoor woody place... Suddenly Song came into view.

My eyes widened, my heart pounding, as I stared at her bruised face. There was something tied around her neck and a hand was yanking at her short hair. But it was the fear and concern in her eyes as she tried to shake her head slightly that got to me. She was worried about me when she was the one held hostage. "Song.." My stomach sank as I felt as if a bucket of icy water had been thrown at me. 'Keep talking.' Leo commanded through the link.

'Ok'

"Azura don—" Song began. Her head was suddenly yanked backwards before a fist connected with her face, making her grunt in pain.

"Song!" My heart thundered with rage, but it was the face that appeared on the screen that was the final cherry on top to ruin the evening for me.

His hazel eyes filled with dull darkness and that ever-remaining anger as he looked me over. "Well well well... It's good to see you again, little Pet. Now how about we stop playing hide and seek and you come to me, before I cut this pretty little witch into bite-size cubes and feed her to the fucking wolves."

"Judah..." I growled.

"Azura." He smirked coldly.

You are fucking dead. "I'll be waiting for you. Be a good little obedient bitch and leave that pack without telling that Alpha." He hissed menacingly.

Ask him why.

"Why? Are you scared of him?" I asked coldly.

His smirk became even sicker as he leaned forward.

"Don't try me or shall I start chopping?" He threatened.

'Agree to meet him.' Leo guided me with such calmness, that I realised he was sending it through the link to calm me.

"Fine. Don't hurt her, I'll come to you."

'At least we now have a face.' Leo's voice came.

It was strange, but despite the tension between us, I felt safe hearing his voice in my head.

“Good, keep your phone close, I will tell you exactly where to come. Make sure you’re alone, and don’t plan anything funny. We had a deal and unless you want these videos on the net... you will come to me.”

My phone beeped, and I saw the five incoming messages.

“Leave that pack tonight, Azura. Your first destination is that little cavern we used to meet at...”

“Fine. I’ll leave as soon as I can without anyone noticing.” I replied. “I’ll see you soon... Don’t take too long, or we might be enjoying a little witchy song for dinner tonight. Sounds...” He trailed off, his eyes darkening with rage when they fell on my neck.

“Are you sleeping with him?” He hissed so menacingly that I almost flinched. “No.” I growled. “Good, because you’re mine.” He spat before the call ended. 2

No, I’m fucking not. I tossed the phone onto the bed, leaning back as I ran my hands through my hair. Fuck, he had Song!

I punched the bed, my gaze falling on Leo.

He was working on his computer, but it was the blazing anger that was rolling off of him that caught my attention. I don’t know how I didn’t notice it; it was almost suffocating.

“Leo?” I called, and then I realised why he was so pissed. He had received those videos too, and although he hadn’t clicked on them, looking at my phone, I could see that two of the videos he had sent clearly showed me.

Naked.

I felt sick at the fact that he had these. I hated how he would antagonise me until I felt like I had to prove that I could do anything. Leo stood up and placed his phone near his ear. “I want the team to close in but keep hidden. This fucker won’t be getting away. Make sure nothing happens to the girl.” He hung up, slipping his phone into his pocket, and turned to me. “He’s not getting away. Not this time. Let’s move. I’m going to fucking kill him.”

## Chapter 43. Everything Is In Place

### LEO.

It had shaken me when she had unknowingly let her barrier down. The sheer level of desperation, fear, pain, and agony when I rejected her and then walked away from her hit me hard...

So fucking hard.

I have not felt such an intense level of pain since I was a child, but knowing this was her feelings, made it a thousand fucking times harder.

She had been unable to breathe as she clutched at her neck, trying to survive the violent pain that had torn through her. It fucking killed me to see things from her eyes, making me hate the fact that I did that to her. Seeing her crumble to the floor, as she watched me walk away was fucking ruthless.

I had broken her and weakened her wolf right after taking everything from her... I had done the very same thing Rayhan had. I promised her something only to rip it away from her the very next. The heartbreak, the fear, and the sadness as she realised what happened consumed me with guilt. The vulnerability as she realised that she wasn't wanted, wondering what she had done wrong? Nothing, she had fucking done nothing wrong. I had blamed her for something that was not even linked to her, and nothing I did could turn back time.

She was so fucking strong, but inside that tough shell, and behind that 'devil don't care attitude was a vulnerability that had been hammered on all her life and I... I had fucking hurt

her.

Fuck How do I process that? How do I forgive myself when I refused to believe Rayhan deserved forgiveness?

Everyone says if you make a mistake and acknowledge it, you deserve forgiveness and a second chance... But if I couldn't forgive Rayhan, then I couldn't suddenly just change my tune to make myself feel better. I promised her I'd talk to Rayhan, and I will, but it didn't mean I'd forgive myself for that brutal rejection. 2

There were some things that were just not forgivable, and what I did was one of those +

I had my walls up since then, not knowing how to process it all. Once we had got off the call, I first had her take an Xray to make sure he had no tracer on her, luckily it was all clear. I had then given her a small pair of stud earrings, with a tracker in one, and a camera with a microphone in the other.

Calling Winona to keep an eye on Corrado, I grabbed a jacket with a hood and changed into some black sweatpants before heading down to my cave with Azura. "Here." I held out a bulletproof body suit, something that I had worked on myself. The material felt similar to a diving outfit, more flexible and easier to wear than bullet-proof vests.

She looked at the full black suit and raised an eyebrow.

"What is this?"

"Wear it underneath your clothes, it's bulletproof, I don't want to take any chances." "First you told me to get some baggy clothes, now this?" She asked, taking it and raising an eyebrow.

"Yeah, because the baggier your clothes, the more you can hide." I replied with a pointed look, as I looked down at her, I loved her in that skirt...

She crossed her legs, making my eyes flash, and I looked up only to realise she was trying not to smirk. 1

"You were saying?" She teased. "You already fucking heard me. Go Change."

She smirked, turning and strutting off.

I wanted to see that ass naked and as much as I wanted to bury my cock in her, I knew it was a fucking dream that won't come true. She looked over her shoulder at me almost as if she knew where I was looking, but she was no longer smirking. A glimmer of confusion flashed in her eyes before she entered the room and shut the door. 1

Walking over to the far wall, I accessed a built-in touch screen. After my thumbprint and a spoken password in voice recognition, it opened to reveal a room full of weapons that I had created and improved.

Judah was fucking dead.

I crossed the room and unlocked one of the lockers on the far wall and took out a box of bullets. They were lethal... Although I was still working on perfecting the formula of the poison that I had created, it would still do the job perfectly. These bullets were meant to kill instantly, and although I had never tried them... I was certain they'd work. The only thing left to perfect was to make sure that the substance did not remain in the body once it had shut down. I was about to grab a few items for Azura when I froze and looked down sharply. 1

Killed instantly...

My heart raced as I mind-linked Dan.

'Dan the body we had found with Azura Westwood, despite the distress it was in, did the post mortem say anything else? You said he seemed to have died instantly, correct?'

Yes.'

'And there was no trace of any poisons?' 'I'm afraid not Alpha.'

'I'm going to send you some files, see if you can trace the three substances listed from his body using the correct methods to bring them out' 1

'Sure thing.' I had gotten him to run some tests on what had been used to kill him. I was not planning on taking any risks not when it came to her, but there had been nothing to help, even the database didn't seem to recognise him. I didn't know how right I was, but if my hunch was anything to go by, then this shit might just be more fucked up than I ever thought.

7/8

I'd ask how and who later... for now I had a bastard to find and kill.

I grabbed a few items before exiting the weapon room, letting the door slide shut and once again blend with the rest of the wall.

I had just sent the files over to Dan when moments later, Azura came out dressed in black pants, a pof neck top that covered the suit and a leather jacket, her hair in a ponytail. As always, she looked sexy as hell.

"One of my men, Li Sheng will be in a taxi. He'd appear human thanks to a scent disguiser. He will take you to the first location. Do not converse in any way that will feel suspicious. I don't trust this guy or if he has a way to listen in on stuff." I said, quietly stepping closer.

She nodded.

I didn't want to involve her like this or even use her as a decoy, but it was the only way to get closer to him.

"I'm not going to be far behind... Rest assured we will find her... I do think we should tell Alejandro the basics, just so he can keep an eye on his daughters. I will be the one dealing with Judah, but just in case." I said quietly. She looked up at me defiantly, back to her usual self but that intense snippet of her memory still didn't leave me.

"Then you can tell him. Why should I?" She stated.

I frowned.

"You're fucking annoying." I said coldly. "But fine, I'll do that."

"Just..." She frowned, and I raised an eyebrow.

"I won't give away anything else, I'm not fucking stupid."

"Perfect then. I wish I could hear this conversation." She replied airily, with a toss of her hair.

I'm sure you fucking would.

I passed her the few items I had gotten for her, quickly telling her how to use them if she needed to.

"I'll be a behind you, and we have the mind link so don't worry alright?"

"I'm not worrying." She replied, rolling her eyes, You are... you're just hiding it as you always do... "Good then." I replied arrogantly, stepping closer to her. She looked into my eyes defiantly, that frown still on her gorgeous face. I gripped the side of her face and neck, becoming serious. "I will not let anything happen to you and our pup." Her eyes softened, confusion settling in, but I didn't give her a chance to say anything more. Leaning down, I pressed my lips against her forehead. It felt intimate... but the urge to reassure her was real. 1 I moved back slowly looking down at her. "As for those videos... don't worry about them. Now that I have a copy, I'll have them blocked from the net, when the same content goes up it will be flagged, and I will make sure they are pulled down. We got this."

"Thanks." She replied. Our eyes met and when her gaze dipped to my lips, I smoothly stepped back, motioning her to leave. 'She's leaving the pack. Keep tracking, I will be leaving in a few.' Operation Lunar on the move.' Ace's voice came.

'Ace.' I warned.

'Hey, I didn't say Luna.' His reply came.

'Operation Selene?' Shane suggested. 'Operation Fated.' Ace added 6

'Quit it. Get moving and focus. Jin is following her and Li Sheng is already waiting for her.'

'Ok, we're on it.' Ace's reply came. 2

I got into one of my cars that I used when I wanted to keep a low profile, and hooked up my phone to my headpiece before driving out. Here goes nothing "Call Alejandro." I said clearly. "Calling Alejandro." The computers' voice came.

I waited, half of me wished he didn't pick up at all.

"Alejandro." He answered. "Yeah, I fucking know, I'm the one who called you." I replied icily. 1 Silence.

“Leo?” He did his best, but he was unable to hide the shock in his voice.

“No, it’s the King of England.” I replied sarcastically. 2 Well depends on what aspect, I held far more power than Alejandro knew...

“Fucker.” 1

So, he wasn’t going to ask why I called, but I didn’t like the emotion in his voice. I needed to get this over with

“I called for a reason.”

“I would fucking assume so.”

“Don’t ask me any questions, but I would suggest you have someone watching your daughters at the academy.”

“Why?” He asked sharply, but even the coldness in it couldn’t disguise his worry. “Just trust me, there’s someone who has made Azura and her friends a target. I will make sure Azura is safe, but watch your girls.” “So, you called in concern for your sisters?” He asked tauntingly.

Why the fuck did he have to be so fucking antagonising?

“I don’t consider them my sisters.” I replied coldly. *My mind flitted to Kataleya, remembering the shit she had suffered when she was a kid. I had felt bad for her. No child deserved that !! Just keep an eye on them.* 1 “Understood. Thanks, and before you hang up, I just wana say it’s good to hear your fucking voice.”

I didn’t reply, hanging up as I stared ahead. Alejandro... It was weird how years of hatred and anger building up were beginning to ease up. Almost as if I was looking at things from their point of view... 1 I put my foot down on the accelerator, my mind on Azura, 1 clicked on her camera, seeing her hailing a taxi.

Perfect... That was Li Sheng.

‘I got her.’ Came his voice through the mind link.

‘Great.’

Years ago, when I had told Alejandro how I felt he had gotten me and Rayhan into a room together to talk shit out. They both got my point, but it had felt too late...

I felt like I had been trying to be heard for years, but no one fucking cared... I remember them asking if they could come to the pack and apologise, but I was the one who said to them no. But they still did after I had left, Kiara had healed those who had suffered and Rayhan had apologised to those who were willing to see him anyway. But I always held that hatred within me, always trying to control it as it continued to fester inside of me. My priorities were changing, and I didn’t have control over them...

Because of her. 1

Or was it because of what I did to her?

Azura...

Marcel and many others said I'd get it when I had a mate... imagine your mate being tortured and abused how Delsanra was. The anger I was feeling towards Judah... but what would I do? Would I find all his friends and allies in blind rage who had a hand?

Yes.

But if it was someone forced to do something just like Azura had been forced to kill someone, would I punish her?

Just like I'm sure Alejandro and the others wouldn't blame her for being blackmailed into doing something because they knew who she was. But me? I wouldn't blame Azura. Even when I refused to accept her or want her, I still saw her as a victim. Even putting Azura in the same context as Delsanra, I knew my answer. No, I wouldn't, it just didn't feel humanely right... Especially punishing those who had been forced to commit those crimes. No, what he did was wrong.

So fucking wrong.

But I had given her my word that I'd talk to Rayhan, and I knew I'd have to deal with that shit at some point or another. An hour had passed, and I had kept far back but within linking range when Azura sent another message. "He wants me to meet him at a motel on the outskirts of the city. Motel Slumber, it's off Silver Crescent Lane down by the fuel station. He said to travel on foot."

'Ok, just head there, I'm not that far behind and so are my men.' 'Got it. Thanks. 'Stop thanking me.' 'Hmm well I'm such a sweet, good girl with manners, I can't help but thank you.' Her voice was mocking and I smirked slightly, pulling my hood up as I drove slower. I'd get out soon too. 'You a good girl? From what angle?' 'You haven't seen The Face.'

"The Face?"

'My innocent puppy dog look.'

'I don't think with a face like that you can ever look innocent...'

It was far too fucking sexy. Especially since all I can think of are your lips around my cock as you look up at me with eyes full of lust...

T'll show it to you later.'

Later... I couldn't help but smirk.

She was confident we'd deal with this shit, and we definitely would.

'Looking forward to it.' I replied. 2 That same silence fell between us, we both wanted to say something, but just like me, I don't think she knew where to start...

I gave a few orders to the others, thinking a motel was a pretty ideal place for the plan that I had in mind...

My phone flashed on, and I clicked on it to see that it was Dan. "Hey, Alpha, was rechecking and comparing the data a little deeper, but I can't make sense of it or what exactly you want me to look for."



But I think there is a connection between what you sent me earlier. It's fucking weird but there's something."

I frowned.

"Send me the file over I'll take a look."

"Got it." I hung up frowning deeply. I knew whatever had been used killed him pretty much instantly, and what irked me was that I

had created something pretty much similar but that was not something I had released into the world and the plan was to keep them for emergencies within the pack. Only to be used as a final solution... I don't know why, but I felt fucking uneasy.

Seeing the incoming email, I glanced at the road for a second before picking up my phone and opening the email.

My eyes scanned the report. My heart thundered as traces of three substances stood out. Their names staring at me glaringly. Making me simply stare at the email. 1. This...

I put the phone down, running my fingers through my hair before I pulled my gun out of my jacket pocket. Was it a coincidence that it was the exact fucking same I used in the poisoned bullets I had been working on? And if so, how was it fucking possible?

I scanned the sheet carefully; it was almost the exact same build-up that I had put together... But I hadn't told – Wait...

I suddenly felt cold, my gut twisting as I realised when I first began working on these bullets, I had mentioned the concept to one other person. A person who was pretty smart too. Someone I had trusted enough... but someone I didn't really know as well as I thought I did.

Fuck

My hands tightened on the steering wheel, my eyes blazing as one name screamed alarm bells in my head.

Emmet. 3

'He's here.' Azura's strained voice came.

'Stay calm, I'm right there with you.' I replied, pushing the thoughts away. I'd deal with that shit later, but for now, my girl needed me. 6

I parked up and got out of the car, breaking into a jog. There must have been a reason he had chosen this place... But whatever the reason, I wouldn't let him get away... not this time. 'Is everything in place?' I asked my men through the link.

'Oh yeah.' Jax's growl came. I smirked slightly

'Perfect.