

## Chapter 65: The Call

Charlie

I haven't gotten more than two hours of sleep since Luna Yara was taken and Alpha Warren left the pack. I'm beyond exhausted, but more than that, I can feel the tension in the pack, the anxiety about not knowing what's going to happen to their Alpha and Luna. I have the same anxiety, but I'm the pack's current leader, so I shove it aside.

In the past, I would have also felt the pack's desire to test me, to test the strength of the leader of this pack. It's nice to know that Luna Yara's influence has extended past her and Alpha Warren. She's somehow made the pack feel whole, like it should. So now, anyone who would try to go against me, to test me, would break that bubble of security and I think the entire pack would turn on them. It feels good to have the pack's confidence in its leadership.

My phone rings and it's a number I don't recognize.

"Beta Charlie," I answer.

"Beta, this is Beta Franklin, Alpha Harold's Beta."

"Yes, I know who you are. Is everything okay?"

"Beta, we have your Luna. She's safe."

"What? Where is she? How? Does Alpha Warren know?"

I hear my Luna's sweet voice in the background and then the phone being transferred.

"Charlie?" My Luna's voice has never sounded so close to tears.

"Luna! Oh, goddess, Luna. We were so worried about you."

"They can't get a hold of Warren, Charlie. Do you know where he is?"

"He's out looking for you. Are you okay?"

"I need him, Charlie," she says and I can hear her fighting hard to hold back her tears.

"I'll find him for you, Luna. I'll get him to you. You stay there. Is Savannah looking after you?"

"You know I am, Beta," I hear her voice in the background, making me sigh in relief.

"We'll be there as soon as we find him, Luna. Hold on."

"Okay," she says and she passes the phone back to Franklin.

"Let your patrols know, my Alpha will be coming in hot."

"Will do, we'll be ready."

I hang up and turn to address the pack, seeing all of them have stopped what they are doing to watch me.

"You all heard?"

"Yes, Beta."

"Good, your Luna is safe, but she needs our Alpha. Haynes, the pack

is yours. You three, with me. We need to find Alpha Warren and get him to Luna Yara. Keep the phone lines open. I'll call as soon as I have news."

Noelle runs up with a small bag that has a large strap, taking my phone while I quickly shift. She straps my phone to Gregor's body before wrapping her arms around us. "Take care of my mate and go get our Luna!" she says against my ear.

Gregor turns his head and licks her quickly before taking off, the other three wolves rushing to catch up. I cross the borders, searching for Simon's scent and follow it out to a river. I keep the mind link open, hoping that I'll get close enough to Warren to let him know where Yara is.

When we get to the river, I lose the scent of Simon, Yara, and our warriors, so I know they crossed.

I look across the river, wondering if Warren crossed, is he still over there or did Simon double back. This isn't the way to his pack.

I lift my head to the sky, howling for my Alpha. It takes a moment, but then I hear him coming from the other direction.

I turn, and we begin running in the direction that I heard his howl. The moment the mind link clicks back into place, he's in my head.

"What are you doing out here? Is everything okay?"

"They found her. Luna is in Alpha Harold's pack. She's safe."

I feel a flood of relief which quickly becomes an intense need to get

to his mate.

"I talked to her. She said she needs you, Alpha! Go! They're expecting you."

I feel him and our warriors shift as he howls to his mate that he's on his way to her.

Simon POV

I woke up stiff and sore. After I'd knocked Yara and her smart mouth out, I'd had to get my anger out somehow. Rather than killing the bitch who is now responsible for the death of most of my pack, I'd punched the walls of the cave until my knuckles were raw and bloody.

Then, I'd sat and stared at her. She will pay for what she has put me through. She will pay for not staying with me, for not coming with me when she had the chance. I had intended to let her have a Luna position, to be treated with the respect she deserved. But now, she deserves no respect, and I don't need a doctor if I don't have a pack to heal.

I'd underestimated just how strong Warren was. I thought if my warriors got home they could fight, but I'd been wrong. I felt every one of their tethers break. The only thing that finally settled me was knowing that I could keep bitch as a breeder. If she's going to act like a bitch, I'm going to treat her like one. She will give me as many pups as I can fucking put in her and when she's used up her value to me, she can rot. 2

The thought finally has me calm enough that I can get some sleep.

However, when I woke, the fucking bitch was gone! I quickly rushed to the edge of the cave, looking out over the early dawn morning. She was nowhere to be seen. I shifted and let Hegir sniff the area and smelled another scent, a she-wolf.

I left the cave, quickly following their scent. I can use the meddling she-wolf as an example, killing her slowly in front of Yara to let her see what happens when she defies me. I don't have to hurt her, I can hurt those who help her.

I'd gotten about halfway to Harold's pack, following the scent when I heard a wolf calling to another. I stopped, listening and waiting. It didn't sound like Annika.

A few moments later, I heard the unmistakable answering howl of an Alpha wolf. Fuck! Warren is already back. I turn, changing directions. If Yara went to Harold's pack, then they will protect her until Warren gets to her. Right now, Warren is between me and my pack and I can't risk him capturing me.

My only choice is to go to Quinton's pack and ask for sanctuary. I'll have to appeal to his Alpha arrogance, letting him know I've lost my pack, but I can pretend to grovel if needed. I did it all the time with my father.

I begin making my way to Quinton's pack and thinking through my next steps.