

Chapter 220 Ceremony

Mara's p.o.v.

I have fallen from one surprise into the next and I don't which one I fear the most, Alayah accepting her birth right or declining it. It doesn't surprise me to hear her say that she will accept the position and I think she made the right choice when it comes to her Beta and Gamma, Bastian knows the territory and Pack by heart while Anton has had the right training.

Alayah asks the Elders if they can do her Ceremony last because she doesn't want to miss the other Ceremonies and Mom has to explain how Alayah's mind processes an overload of information, "With her taking over as Alpha she will get an overload of emotions and voices directed at her, which will mean she isn't present during the other Ceremonies." Mom says and the Elders agree it doesn't matter if her Ceremony comes first or last.

Anton is the first to go through his Ceremony, the current Beta is going through the oath Anton has to take to become the next Beta and I see Paul smiling proudly as his Son becomes the Beta of Blood Stone Pack. Josh is beaming as Bastian goes through his Ceremony, the current Gamma going through the oath Bastian has to take to become the next Gamma and it is clear to see that his Brothers are proud of him. Mable gets emotional as will I when it is Alayah's turn, each Delta goes through the Ceremony with their parents as they take the oath to become the next Delta and I can tell that Alayah is enjoying every second of the Ceremonies.

When it is Alayah's turn a chalice with Blood Stone's emblem on it gets placed on the desk and one of the Elders puts a glove on to pick up a silver knife with the same emblem on the hilt. The Feline Shifter introduces herself as Elder Aimi, she will assist Josh with the Alpha Ceremony and Elder Mathass, the Grizzly, and Elder Dariston, the Lycan, will assist with whatever might be necessary. She asks Alayah to stand on her left side and Josh has to stand on her right side.

Josh asks Alayah to take his right hand with her right hand, the little shake of her hand tells me that she is nervous and Josh squeezes her hand gently as he tells her he is with her every step of the way. Josh asks Alayah if she will put the Pack's needs before her own, that she will protect the weak, to guide every member to become the best they can be and to ensure the greater good of the Pack. Alayah responds with a clear and determined "I will" and she gives him a smile.

Then Josh asks her if she will uphold the Laws the Elders provide and to help the Elders to bring justice to those that have broken those Laws, again she answers with a clear and determined "I will" as she quickly looks at me. I feel so damn proud of the female my Daughter has become and I will help her in any way I can in the future, which reminds me that I have to talk Xavier about our future with Autumn Pack.

"Alayah, will you accept Blood Stone Pack as your Pack and bring it back to its former glory?" Josh asks and again she gives him a clear and determined "I will" before Elder Aimi steps forward with the silver knife. She explains to Alayah what is going to happen and Alayah gives her a small nod in understanding. Josh and Alayah pull their hands away from each other, far enough for Elder Aimi to place the knife between their hands and as they close the gap Elder Aimi pulls the knife up.

They squeeze their hands together forcing their blood to mix before it drips into the chalice, "Alayah, I relinquish the title of Alpha of Blood Stone Pack to you." Josh says and the only reason I can tell that something is happening is because I am staring at my Daughter. Her eyes widen for a moment before I see her losing focus, but Noah is already by her side to support her and after a few more minutes Josh releases her hand.

Elder Mathass asks if anyone has any questions, but we are too focused on Alayah to remember if we have any questions and I guess that Grandpa can answer any question we might have. I don't notice that the Elders leave or who guided them out the door, I don't even know if they were able to talk to anyone about the reason they came here for and to tell you the truth; right now I don't care about any of that.

Alayah's p.o.v.

The moment Uncle Josh said he relinquished the title to me I felt the connections to every Pack-member snap into place and it gave my senses an overload like I have never had before. I feel Noah wrap his arms around me and I lean into his chest to just let everything wash over me, it will take some time before I am able to make sense of anything again.

I feel that the Pack is going from shock to surprise to joy in a matter of minutes and every now and then I hear someone say Welcome through the mind-link. I am not sure if they truly understand what has happened, but at the moment it isn't something that keeps me busy. I am focused on getting used to the feeling of being connected to every Pack-member and the constant buzzing of their feelings and their voices.

Topaz helps me to find the way to block their feelings and voices, which helps me to focus on my surroundings again and I smile when I feel that I am sandwiched between all my Mates.

"Welcome back, Princess." Nero whispers in my ear and I softly ask how long I was out of it, it surprises me it was less than fifteen minutes. "Being surrounded by your Mates helped tremendously." Topaz points out and I tell my Mates through the mind-link what Topaz told me.

Each of them promises me that they will always be there if I need them and for a few more minutes I allow myself to enjoy being held by my Mates, before I finally focus back on everyone else in the room. Anton is sitting in an armchair reading a file, "Elder Mathass gave this to me when I escorted them back to the front door." He says without looking up from the file and the look on his face tells me that whatever they came here for isn't much good.

I don't ask Anton what the file is about, because I still need some time to let everything settle and I lean closer to Nero as I look at everyone else in the room. I feel most of the Pack-members settle in to a feeling of joy and acceptance, but I can also feel that some Pack-members feel annoyed and uneasy and it reminds me that Nikolay still owes me an explanation.