

## Chapter 254 Holds Out

Nikolay's p.o.v.

Our Elite Warriors are taking care of the death penalties, while we get into our SUV and head out of the territory.

Grandma is waiting with the twins about ten minutes from the territory and we are going to spend some time there, until everyone is ready to head home.

My Brothers and I watch our Mate and Pups, laughing and playing, and I hope that we will soon find a way to get some normal into our lives. This is the part of her life that Alayah doesn't like, but we all know that someone has to do it.

I am just glad we have a family that is willing to put in the work to give us some time with our Pups and a Pack that is more than willing to leave at a moment's notice to bring justice to those that didn't get it.

Anton has been busy with trying to find the best way to deal with all the request to break a Mate-bond, there are so many Shifters that need her help and he is determined to make this process a quick process to deal with.

So far, Anton hasn't talked to any of us about it. It isn't an easy task, if all the requests are an indication. Some have been waiting for decades, others only for a few months and I know that for some it is already too late.

"Where did your mind take you, Bro?" Nathan asks and as I look up I see that everyone has arrived at the clearing.

"Let's save that for when we get home, I want to see what our Pups think of this trip." I answer him, before I grab Cassandra and place her on my shoulder. In minutes everyone is in their SUV and we head out, to go home.

Maxwell and Cassandra keep my mind of business for a while, both of them babbling on and on about whatever it is that they see and I laugh my ass off, every time they start arguing about something.

More than half of their discussions sound like a foreign language and every now and then you can hear a few familiar words, but combined it doesn't make sense to any of us. It doesn't stop either one of them from arguing and I feel sorry for Grandma, who is stuck between the two of them.

Maxwell and Cassandra will argue loudly, while leaning towards one another and the next moment they will lean back in their seats, hiding behind Grandma. Which only last a second or two, before they lean towards one another again and their argument starts all over again.

If I had to tell you what I thought their arguments were about, I would say it has to do with our surroundings. Cassandra loves to watch how nature acts around us, Maxwell doesn't have the patience for it and that is where our twins collide.

By the time we enter Blood Stone territory, both of them are fast asleep and we just enjoy the peace and quiet. Mom and Dad get their Grandpups from the SUV and I know they will sleep until morning.

"Alayah, I need to talk to all of you. Can we do this after dinner or first thing in the morning?" Anton asks.

"First thing in the morning, I want a quiet dinner and evening with my Mate." Noah says and after asking an Omega to bring our dinner up, he lifts Alayah in his arms to carry her upstairs.

Just like every other morning, I wake up to our Mate lying across the four of us. Somehow, she needs to be connected to the four of us at night and it surprises me every time that she isn't stiff and sore when she wakes up.

An hour later we are all ready to meet with Anton and the rest of our leadership, each of us curious what Anton needs to discuss with us.

None of us say a word as we wait for Anton to start talking, he is pacing the floor in front of the window and even Harper gives him some space.

"I have been thinking about all the requests we got in regards to breaking a Mate-bond. I have asked Bryson and Brock to go through the Archive and to ask for all the help they should need. The requests we received are just a fraction of the files they found in the Archive and the requests we received are of people that have been in this situation for a few months at most.

Our Archive shows that there are reports dating back to when the original Alpha was killed, some of them didn't survive the betrayal pains. At first I thought about doing this Pack by Pack, but after finding out how many Shifters have been going through this for decades, I needed to find a better way.

I want to send Elders to the ones that have been waiting the longest and start with their cases. We can use the large meeting room down the hall, the rejector and the rejected will get the chance to explain their reasoning. You can ask anyone they bring along questions to make a decision." Anton says, as he keeps pacing the floor.

We all agree that the Shifters that have been going through this the longest, will get their day in court first. Harper seems to be deep in thought and I can almost feel the wheels turning in her head.

"What if one of them gets an Alpha order to inform us that it has been resolved?" Harper asks and I think she has found something.

"They still have to come, I want every file to have closure. Nathan and I can tell if they are telling the truth and if we doubt their sincerity I can break the Alpha order." Alayah responds.

"Brock and Bryson found something else in the Archive that has me worried. They found files on rejections from family members or friends, instead of the rejector or rejected. They believe that in those cases the Alpha has been aware of the rejection and has stopped them from getting justice." Anton says.

He points at the files on a table in the corner and soon we are all reading through them. It looks to me as if Brock and Bryson are on to something and I growl when I see Alpha Randell's name in a file that I am reading. There are three reports in this file, from different Pack-members that say the same thing and he is lucky that he is already dead.

"Okay, let's send out Elders with Elite Warriors to get the people involved with the oldest cases. We will do this twice a month, from monday through wednesday, and we will start with the files from our Archive. Any request that isn't linked to a file in our Archive will get investigated first, because I want to know why there isn't a file in our Archive to match." Alayah says.

A moment later the door opens and Brock and Bryson join us to draw up the conditions for these trials. They get tasked with connecting a request to our files and to investigate the requests without a file.

"Alayah, maybe it would be a good idea to send you and Nathan with an Elder. After all the both of you can tell when someone is lying and that might come in handy in some of these cases." Harper offers and after a few moments she nods her head.

"Let's get the worst ones out of the way first and schedule it for two weeks from now." Alayah says, as she takes the file Brock is holding out to her.