

Chapter 22 Death Sentence

Carol POV

I moan softly when my phone's ringing wakes me up. Who on earth would call on a Sunday night at eleven?

"Liana?" I quickly sit up and wipe over my eyes. Liana will not call at this hour if it was not urgent. "What's wrong?"

"Hi, I'm Bea," an unknown voice replies. "I work with Liana. Can you come to pick her up at the restaurant, please?"

"Sure," I jump out of bed. "Is she all right? Did she get sick or something?"

"Or something," Bea sighs. "There was an attack. I can't be sure, but she seems ne. Just t raumatized."

"I'll be there in ten minutes," I disconnect the call.

I do not waste time getting dressed. I only put on sneakers and pull a shirt over my pyjama s. I grab a jacket, my handbag and keys and run to the car.

The second my phone connects with the car's speaker, I phone Drew.

"You're up late," Drew answers with a smile in his voice.

"Where are you?" I ask calmly. I do not know if I am on speakerphone, and I do not want to alarm the world when I do not have the facts.

"I just picked up Axel from the airport," he replies. "We should be home in teen minutes."

"I'm on my way to the restaurant," I explain as I speed down the road. "There was an attack at Liana's restaurant."

"We're on our way," he grunts.

"Drew, no!" I stop him. "I don't know what happened and there's a reason why she called m e and not anybody else."

"I'm still coming," he insists.

"Fine," I give in. For Drew, Liana is the daughter we never had, and I know I cannot keep him away. "But stay in the background until I say so, okay?"

I disconnect the call just as I stop in front of the restaurant. My eyes nearly bulge out of m y sockets when I witness the scene. Two she-wolves are pinning down a wolf while two other girls comfort Liana. The place is in absolut e chaos. They were denitely ghting indoors.

"Liana, honey," I touch her arm and instantly she lets go of the girl and throws herself in my arms. I must ght to keep my composure when I see the state she is in. Her chest, face an d hand are covered in blood.

"Where are you bleeding?" I force my voice to remain steady.

"It's not her blood," one of the girls responds.

"It's his," another point to the wolf that is pinned down.

"Let's get you into my car," I say as I lead her outside. Once she is safely in the backseat, I t ake off my jacket and cover her with it.

"You're going to be all right," I smile as I close the door and walk back inside.

"What happened here?" I ask.

"Missy forgot her jacket," she points to the she-wolf that is pinning the wolf down. "And when we walked in, Liana was running for the doo r, with Brad on her heels. He pinned her down and then we stepped in."

"Have you informed Alpha Grant?" I ask.

"Not yet," one replies. "We thought it's better to get Liana out of here rst."

"Good thinking," I smile. "Just stay here, Axel is on his way."

They nod in unison, and I look at the wolves.

"Will you be able to handle him until they get here?" I frown.

"Please," the one snorts. "Piece of cake. He's not going anywhere."

"Good," I smile proudly at them. "And thank you for everything you did for Liana."

"Oh, it's our pleasure," one grins. "We've all been dying to kick his ass."

I wave them goodbye before I run back to the car and take Liana home.

Axel POV

"Everything okay at home?" I ask absentmindedly as I rest my head on the seat. It has bee n one hell of a busy week and all I want is to go home and hold Liana.

"Nothing new to report, sir," Drew replies just as his phone rings.

I close my eyes and relax as Drew answers his phone but when his tone of voice changes, I am on full alert.

"Change of plans, sir," Drew's voice is strained, and he accelerates to an alarming speed as he tells me what happened.

"How long before we're within our borders?" I ask brusquely.

"Five minutes," Drew replies and I shift uncomfortably in my seat. I cannot mind-link until we are within the borders.

"Do you have the number of the restaurant's owner?" I ask irritated.

"Already dialling, sir," Drew says as he hands me his phone.

I cling to the phone and listen to the dialling tone until it goes to voicemail.

"For f**k's sake," I grunt. "What's the use of having a phone when you don't answer it?"

Drew's phone starts ringing in my hand and eagerly I pick up when I read Carol's name.

"She's safe and with me," Carol says after I greeted her. I listen intently as she tells me wha t happened. "But you're needed at the restaurant. It's a mess."

"Thanks, Carol," I disconnect the call and mind-link Nick to meet me with warriors at the restaurant.

I do not say a word as we speed towards the restaurant. I am going to rip that son of a b** h apart, I swear. I know I should be calm and collected but I am livid.

I am out of the car even before Drew has fully stopped and I march into the restaurant. I ig nore the she-wolves staring at me and walk straight to the bastard that is pinned to the oor.

"Shift!" I command and he complies.

"Name?" I bark.

"Brad," he avoids eye contact. "I'm the manager."

"What happened to your eye?" I ask in repulse when he looks up at me.

"I ... I was attacked," he says nervously. "It was self-defence."

One of the she-wolves snorts and rolls her eyes.

"Who attacked you?" I cross my arms in front of my chest. I know he is a lying piece of s**t , but as Alpha, I must be diligent and fair.

"An employee," he replies. "She wanted more money and when I didn't want to give it to her, she did this."

"Was it one of you?" I play dumb and turn to the girls.

"It was Liana," one replies. "A human."

"Thank you," I wink at her, and she blushes slightly.

"So," I turn to the culprit. "You're telling me a human girl did this?"

"Yes," he lifts his chin. "And I want to lay charges against her and these four."

"You're all red," he shouts at them angrily.

"Let's talk," I smile as I place my hand behind his neck and lead him to his oice. As furioo s as I am, I am impressed with Liana. Taking out a wolf's eye is no easy task.

I close the door behind us and use a moment to take in the scene. Fury builds in me as I lo ok at the overthrown chair and shreds of clothing.

"How dare you touch my mate?" I bellow as I grab him by the neck and pin him to the wall. His eyes go wild and big as he grasps for air.

"I ... didn't ... know," he stammers. "I would never touch your mate, I ..."

"And that makes it all right?" I grunt. "Attacking an unmated wolf?"

"The others liked it," he shrieks and claws against my hand as I tighten my grip.

"Others?" I growl. "How many?"

"F ... ve," he ghts for air. "Ask them, they enjoyed it."

I nearly lose my mind when I hear his words. Unceremoniously, I drag him out of the oice and toss him to the oor in front of the she-wolves. Nick and the warriors have also arrived and look questioningly at me.

"Are any of you his victims?" I ask the she-wolves.

"No," one of them steps forward. "We're all brunettes. He has a taste for blondes."

"They're lying!" Brad panics.

"Silence!" I bark and he instantly shuts up.

"Do you know the girls he attacked?" I ask the she-wolves.

"I do," a girl nods. "But they all moved away after Brad ... you know."

"Is there anyone here that would like to speak on behalf of the accused?" I look at everyon e, but nobody steps forward.

"Very well," my voice is loud and clear for all to hear. "I nd you guilty of ve counts of r**e and one attempted r**e. I hereby sentence you to death."

"Please, no," the man begs as I walk towards him. "This is not a fair trial."

"Fair?" I sneer. "Were you fair when you chased down an employee when she tried to ee y our claws? Were you fair when you red these girls in front of me because they protected Liana?"

"You're not red," he looks at the she-wolves. "In fact, I'm giving you all raises."

"The Simon says way?" A girl snarls as she walks to Brad, and he turns white as a sheet. "Y eah, Ashley told me about your little game."

"Alpha Axel," the girl turns to me. "I'm Missy and have been working here since I was sixtee n. Ashley conded in me. He would make the girls play a girl of Simon says before he r**s them."

"It's just a game," Brad defends himself. "We had fun. Go ahead and ask them, they all enjo yed it."

"Not as much as I am enjoying this," I sneer as I rip his throat out.

I step back and watch him gurgle for air before silence lls the room.

"Missy," I turn to her. "Would you mind providing us with details about his victims? I would l ike to contact them and apologize for what they had to endure."

"Gladly," the girl smiles brightly.

"Danny," I call one of the warriors over. "Get a cleanup crew ready and take care of this me ss. And for f**k's sake, go wake the owner and tell him what's happening in his establishm ent."

"Nick," I turn to him. "Please take these brave young ladies' names and statements. They w ill all be rewarded for their assistance tonight. And get them home safely."

"Yes, Alpha," he nods.

"And when you're done, get a team ready," I continue. "You're leaving tonight to nd his vict ims. Tell them the happy news that Brad is dead and get their statements so that they can be compensated."

"Thank you, Alpha," Missy says, and I do not miss the adoration in her eyes.

I smile softly at her before I turn around and leave. There is only one thing I want now, and that is to get to Liana.