

Chapter 0017

Remember that until they've pledged their allegiance they are still independent. Do not remove the warriors at the borders. Instead, make them visible, and increase the fear Crimson already has," Liam informed him.

"Noted Alpha," James responded.

After one long wistful look at the forest, Liam continued his walk back into the urban area of Crimson.

"Alpha," James said, panting as he ran up to him, "They said that they cannot find their Alpha,."

Liam gave him an incredulous look,

"Oh really," he muttered, "Where are they? No, it doesn't matter. Let the warriors begin to march into Crimson. Capture their old Luna and hold her captive. Direct the warriors to their children's playgrounds or nurseries and seal them off with the threat of burning them to the ground. That will bring him out of hiding."

James nodded and hurried off, immediately mind-linking the warriors at the borders.

All at once, Liam's warriors released a war cry and began to march in, with most of them heading towards the nursery and playground.

In less than 30 minutes, they had taken siege of all the places where the youngest pack members of Crimson were

gathered.

Chaos and terror reigned in Crimson. Everyone knew that apart from the Alpha and his Luna, the puppies were the next most important pack members because they ensured the continuity of the pack.

Parents were huddled in clusters crying and praying.

Some tried to attack Liam's men but were easily thrown back.

Crimson's warriors had also gathered but they dared not make a move because they knew what was at stake.

Everyone had heard stories of the Dark Moon and they knew how cold-blooded the alpha was.

"W-w-what is going on?" Crimson's Beta asked as he jumped out of the conference room.

Alpha Liam, who had been idling as he waited for them, he let out a smirk.

"Finally, they decided to join us. No more hiding within your conference room and whispering. There's nothing for you, Beta. At least not until you've pledged allegiance."

"B-but, those are kids, innocent creatures,"

Liam's jaw tightened and a glint of anger flashed in his eyes.

"They are also the future of Crimson. Imagine what will happen if you lose each and every one of them. That automatically translates to the death of your pack, doesn't it? Do you think I do not know what you are planning? Where

is your Alpha and why has he suddenly disappeared?"

"He's grieving! You took his Luna and embarrassed him,"

Liam snarled,

"His Luna? A woman he lied to and used? A woman he would have cast out when he found his true mate? How dare he grieve, when he sought my head, last night? Bring your alpha or within the next 1 minute, the future of Crimson will be erased from the surface of the Earth. One!"

The Beta's nostrils widened and his eyes flitted around.

"We don't know where he is..."

"Two!"

"W-w-we need more time to..."

"Ten!"

Gasping, the Beta ran back into the conference room.

"Twenty!"

The doors to the conference flung open a second later and Shane stormed out, growling.

"Oh, there you are," Liam mused, raising his hands in the air and staring at his fingernails for some seconds before folding his arms behind his back and stepping around the fuming Shane.

Shane's face was seconds away from bursting, spittle dripped from his fangs as he bent and roared. His claws slashed in the air and his rage saturated the air.

Pack members quivered, cried, and whimpered.

"Aww, are you mad?" Liam chuckled,

Shane's head snapped towards him and he snarled,

Liam smirked,

Shane's eyes flitted to gold and back. The muscles on his back cricked and he reeled back.

"He's seconds away from shifting, is he going rogue?" Liam asked disinterestedly, "Hey, I'm talking to you... What's going on with your Alpha? We are mere seconds from igniting your pups."

He said to the awestruck Beta, ignoring Shane's snarls.

The Beta snapped out of his trance and looked from Shane back to the smirking Alpha and swallowed, probably regretting his existence.

At that moment, Nicole walked in, flanked by two of Liam's warriors. All gazes turned to her.

On seeing Shane, she stumbled back, fear flashing in her eyes.

"Oh great," Liam commented, still circling the raging Shane, "She's your Luna but she can't stand up to you, wonderful."

Shane huffed and growled at him. His wolf was obviously in control.

"A-alpha," the Beta started,

Shane snarled at him, making him jump back with his eyes shining like a torchlight as he swallowed and struggled for breath.

"Fifty, Fifty-one, Fifty-two..." Liam continued counting down.

"Fifty-ni-"

"Stop!" Shane gasped suddenly, his rage immediately subsiding.

Liam smirked, then made a subtle sign to James so that the warriors stood down.

Two priests of Crimson immediately peeked their heads out of the conference room and then stepped forward.

Together they processed out of the pack's house with Shane's head bent in shame.

At the pack square, they proceeded with the ritual. Shane stood on an elevated platform with his arms outstretched and the priests made him recite the plea of allegiance as they slit his wrist and allowed his blood to spill onto the ground, while they hummed prayers to the moon goddess.