



Chapter 0346

"What the hell was that all about?"

"He was trying to get you to avoid the run for some reason."

Mina chimes in. "But what does he have to lose or gain if you don't go?"

"He seemed overly angry for something so small."

"It's possible you are getting in the way of something he is trying to accomplish. Maybe he wants Tyler to get involved with another female and he's distracted by you. Maybe you are keeping them from bringing in girls. There haven't been any missing persons reports in a while." Nickolas chimes in.

"Whatever it is, now I have to go, don't I? It's too suspicious to stay away."

"Something is going down and either you are going to be in the way or a distraction or they don't want you to see whatever it is that they are doing." Osiston says. "Keep communication going with Tyler, make sure he knows you're going tomorrow and don't give him any reason to uninvite you." The threat in that statement alone had me moving faster to get home.

I walk into a fully mobilized kitchen. The entire island is covered in screens and wires with five people I have never seen before surrounding it clicking rapidly through different

camera views. I can smell coffee, fresh and slightly burnt which means William is here somewhere. He likes it thick like tar and there is always an acrid burnt smell for days after he's been here. It's both endearing and terrible.

"Hey Midge!" I turn to a familiar voice I haven't heard in a very long time.

"Wyatt!!" I ran to give him a hug. I wrap my arms around him and hug him like the teddy bear he is. "What are you doing here?"

"Sounds like you got up to some trouble and need back up." He winks at me.

"Are Lillian and Nathaniel here too?"

"Not here, but on this mission too, somewhere. I didn't realize how big this op was."

"I still don't really know and apparently I'm in the middle of it."

"Little One, over here." Osiston calls me. I can't even make the smile disappear off of my face knowing Wyatt, Lillian and Nathaniel are here for me.

"What are we doing?" I ask.

"Getting ready. We think we have figured out where the concentration of this scent mask is coming from based on your runs and sensitivities to the block. It's coming from the east of the forest preserve like you thought. We have

scouts out now circling the areas the group runs in North of the campus though. They wouldn't have two camps going in such close proximity, but there is a reason they run up there and keep a perimeter going at all times." I nod my head trying to keep up with all of the information. "You need to message Tyler tonight, make sure he doesn't change his mind. We don't know what Robbie was up to trying to get you to not run tomorrow. He's never been a huge fan of yours, but he also has never been negative or aggressive towards you either. Something is up and we have to plan for as many possibilities as possible." 1

I nod again. "What can I do to help now?"

"You need to stick to your normal. Get ready for your evening run, we already know that Tyler follows you everywhere. I didn't sense him near you when Robbie approached though, that is something that confuses me. Then you can meet Tyler in the morning to work out and do your regular class routine with him. You are going to go to the run solo though." My mouth drops open.

"What?! Why? I can't go without her, it will look weird. She's always with me."

"But they have targeted you and if my hunch is right they will make a move if they think that you are completely alone. She has a date tomorrow. She's already been talking about it with girls on campus so many of them will be able to back up the story."

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I don't know about this. I have never been with the group alone before. I don't know why it scares me, but I have a really bad feeling about it. But, I guess if I have a bad feeling then maybe it's better that Mina is away from the mess if something happens. It's one less person to keep track of. All of the warriors only have to focus on one target instead of multiple.

I nod, after a few minutes. I love that Osiston just lets me be in my head and process things the way that I need to. He doesn't rush my thought process at all, even when I am sure he can guess what I am thinking and knows I am wrong. He lets me learn.

"So what should I do now? I don't know if I will be able to sleep with all of this going on after my run."

"We won't be here when you get back. Tyler only watches the house when you are here. He's waiting or watching for something, I just don't know what it is yet. Maybe invite him to run with you tonight, see what he says."

I nod. "Okay." Then I get up and head to my room. I have butterflies and I can't tell if they are good or bad omens. This is really happening, something is happening tomorrow and I hope I get to be on the right outcome of it.

I text Tyler.

Me: Care for a run?

Tyler Hot Ecology Guy: Sure, you okay?

Me: Not sure, just antsy and I don't want to run alone

Tyler Hot Ecology Guy: Where's Mina?

Me: Too busy with a new boy.

Tyler Hot Ecology Guy: I heard, Tell her to be careful, He's a player.

Me: And you aren't...

Tyler Hot Ecology Guy: Ouch! And No, you cured me of that.

Me: Back to the good lines you need to save for someone who will fall for them.

Tyler Hot Ecology Guy: Still wish it was you.

Me: How long will it take you to get here? Or should I meet you somewhere?

Tyler Hot Ecology Guy: Haven't you figured it out yet?

Me: What?

Tyler Hot Ecology Guy: I'm already here.

Me: Seriously?!

Me: You do know how creepy that is right?



Tyler Hot Ecology Guy: I'm just glad you called me and not Robbie

Me: So you are following me? I'll be out in five.

I change fast and run downstairs and the team is already packing up. I walk into the kitchen to grab a bottle of water and toss it into my small shoulder bag.

"Tyler is already outside. He did see me with Robbie this afternoon. Are you sure you didn't smell him near me?" I ask Osiston as quietly as possible, assuming Tyler is listening in on my conversations inside the house and I might have to come up with an excuse for why a ton of people are here when Nickolas is supposed to be gone.

"There was no other scent around you and we haven't scented him around the house for two days now even though we've had eyes on him the whole time. He's a big part of this. Be careful. Nickolas, Lillian, Wyatt and Nathaniel are all going to be following you tonight, but at a further distance than normal since they are messing with scents, we don't want to blow our cover yet." He mindlinks me and only me. I nod and head towards the door.

I take a deep breath and step out.

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"You know it's not less creepy when I know you're here somewhere and I can't see you or smell you right?" I say out into my yard. I figure he's being extra strange because he knows Robbie talked to me today. And I have to play along like it's cute and not a major red flag.

Tyler steps out from the shadows of our neighbors house. It's not quite dark yet, but he obviously knows the blind spots well. I'm just glad that Osiston said they have had eyes on him whenever he is trailing me. So I at least know he's not as sneaky as he thinks he is.

His smile doesn't quite reach his eyes. "What did Robbie say to you today?" He stops just short of my porch steps, a dark look in his eyes. I don't think it's jealousy though. I can't quite read him.

I step down slowly, approaching him like a skittish animal. "He asked me if we were back together."

"And what did you say?" He doesn't make a move towards me. His whole demeanor has changed since earlier today.

"I told him we were never actually together, there was nothing official, but I was working on being friends again." I take another step towards him.

"Do you play with all of your guys like that?"



"So, you're back to thinking I'm a wh*re. Good to know it doesn't take much to change your mind about people. Just because one girl messed you up doesn't mean we all will." I take a slow breath and try to keep my emotions in check, I have to keep him calm. His temper is what has changed or maybe it's slipping, now that I think about it. "You said you were patient, I called you, remember?" I reach my hand out to him, waiting to see if he will come back to the Tyler I enjoy hanging out with.

He grunts and gives a small shake of his head like he's physically clearing his thoughts. "You did call me didn't you?"

"I did and I think you need to run just as much as I do. Come on."

He takes my hand and gives it a squeeze then we both go at a slow pace. I take the route I have done the last two nights and Tyler doesn't hesitate or question where I'm going, which confirms Osiston's report about him following me. I don't say anything though, he seems to be calming down a bit.

"Do you want to talk about it?" I approach the elephant as gently as possible. Something has him on edge and it makes him a completely different person. I noticed the demeanor change the night of my birthday too, but I didn't want to bring up something that might be painful. Now I just don't care. SOMETHING is going on with him and I need to know what it is.



"Not really, but she's been exceptionally active today." He just looks at me with sad eyes, trying to get me to understand without saying more.

"Your mate? I'm sorry. I didn't even think about you still going through that pain. Why don't you accept her rejection and get it over with. Maybe the Moon Goddess would give you a second chance mate, someone who actually deserves you."

"I can't"

"Can't or won't?"

"It's the same thing really. He said if I accepted her rejection, he would kill her. I know she doesn't want me, but I can't do that and my wolf won't allow it either."

"Can she feel if you are with someone else? I'm sure it hurts her just as bad."

"I haven't been with anyone else. That's the hardest part, I just can't and believe me I have tried. The worst part is he hasn't marked her yet. I know he's using her for now and will kick her to the side the minute he finds someone he deems better. I have tried telling her that, but I just get the pain in return as proof that he wants to be with her. What she doesn't get is he sleeps with anyone that will open their legs for him. She doesn't know because she isn't his mate and she doesn't carry his mark so she can't feel it. But I've seen it, witnessed it first hand. He seems to like an

audience and when you can hurt someone in more than one way why not right?"

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