

Martin saw his hesitation and slowly knelt next to Garget still holding out his hand. “It appears that I have acted too quickly out of passion and concern for my Queen.” Martin told him. “For that, I apologize to you...”

“Garget. Garget Ranev.” He replied.

Martin extended his hand out further. “Then take my hand Garget Ranev and let’s see if we can’t start over.”

“You... you are the *Mard Revik!*” Garget gasped aloud.

Martin nodded his head. “That is what some call me, yes. Personally I hate that name but it can’t be helped.” He answered. “Today however, today I was just an Alpha wolf who loves his mate and wanted her back.”

Garget heard that and didn’t hesitate as he thrust out his own hand and took the offered one. Martin pulled him to his feet with confidence and strength and though Garget was taller than Martin by two inches he felt somehow shorter.

“I... I know this feeling.” Garget spoke as he looked at Martin once he was fully on his feet.

“Forgive me for my actions.” Martin told him. “I should have contacted Anja and told her we were here but we received some disturbing information not long ago and I thought she that would be in danger. My children and friends too. I acted without thinking.”

“You acted as any Alpha would.” Garget told him honestly. “I... I cannot fault you for this.”

Martin shook his head. “You could... but I thank you for not doing so regardless.”

Garget stared at him for a long moment not truly believing that the Mard Revik stood in front of him. He seemed so normal to Garget, an exceptional specimen of an Alpha wolf to be sure, but normal nonetheless. He was thickly muscled, his beard and mustache neatly trimmed but his shoulder length black hair somewhat untamed and wild. His scent and aura radiated raw, unrefined power and a wildness that Garget had never smelled before.

“You have questions?” Martin asked him.

Garget shook his head in disbelief. “You have... you have no idea.” He answered finally.

Martin smiled at him. “Oh, I bet I do.” Martin told him. “I have just as many as you do. What do you say we try and find some of those answers together?”

Garget Ranev smiled and nodded his head. “I believe I would...”

The single crack echoed over the horizon and turned the heads of everyone as it rumbled across the landing platform. It was easily distinguishable and Martin instantly tapped his jaw activating his implant.

“Atropos report!” Martin snapped.

“*Nubou!*” Atropos’ voice echoed in the COM. “We are six clicks northeast of your position Martin! Calyb has been acting...”

“What?!” Martin barked as Anja moved closer to him grasping Aricia’s and For’mya’s hands.

“Ever since we left the *STRIKER.*” Atropos spoke now. “The mountains are saturated with the scents of two females well into their first Phase. Calyb has been... he has been unusually agitated since we landed. Their scents are affecting him more than they should for some reason! The moment the shot rang out he shifted and bolted in the

direction of the echo. He moves with purpose Martin! Deadly purpose! Jeru and Mara are following him above the trees but they will not answer me either!”

Martin looked at Garget. “Two females in phase in the mountains? Is that normal here?” He asked.

Garget’s eyes went wide. “Taris!” He exclaimed. “My only daughter Taris! She and her friend Anoria... they went into the mountains to Taris’ cave last night!”

“Sir!” One of the soldiers that had only been slightly injured barked from behind Garget. They turned to see Kalis beside him, with Serale healing his injuries. “Juyno Aspion and his cohorts departed into the Dahok Mountain range this morning.”

Garget hissed viciously and his fangs burst forth from his gums. “Argh!!” He screamed. “That scum is hunting them! I will kill him for this if he has hurt her!!”

Anja stepped up to Martin now. “Lover you have to do something!” She spoke urgently.

“Atropos can you catch him!” Martin snapped into his COM.

*Impossible Martin!* Atropos answered instantly within Mindvoice, shocking all those who stood around Martin for none of them had ever heard it used with such power and clarity. Anja, Martin and the others knew from the tone of Atropos’ voice that he was running in wolf form as hard as he was able. Even in wolf form the implants were still present and they could still hear as they would as if in human form. *I could not catch up to him on my best day! He is too fast and too strong! He is one of your sons Martin!*

*Jeru! Mara!* Martin screamed out into the Etheric realm even as Retta and the others moved closer. He turned to Retta. “They aren’t answering Retta!”

*They will not Martin.* Torma’s voice echoed now. *They are focused on Calyb and will not deviate from his side!*

*Torma how far!* Martin asked.

*Five kilometers from your current location!*

Martin turned to Anja. “Get everyone on the *STRIKER* Red!” He shouted. “Go! Go!”

*Martin it is too late!* Isheeni’s voice spoke now. *Calyb... Calyb is upon them!*

“Fuck!” Andro’s voice echoed and eyes went wide as his wings exploded from his armor and he launched himself into the air in the direction of his brother. Martin wasted no time and was behind his son in an instant.

“With me now!” Anja screamed as she grabbed Garget’s hand. “Now!”