

The Alpha King's Human Mate by HC Dolores

Chapter 86

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“We don't shout ‘don't panic’ to anyone who's in panic!” (+ Toba Beta

Griffin used to think that the emptiness he felt before finding his mate was the worst it could get. All those nights he'd lie awake in bed, wondering if he'd never meet her, if maybe she'd already died in some horrific way and he hadn't been able to protect her...all of that anxiety paled in comparison to what he was feeling now.

The anxiety of the unknown was nothing compared to what it felt like to know that his mate was in real danger. Not imaginary danger his brain conjured up when he was alone and anxious, but real, palpable danger.

And it was his fault.

She might as well have been taken directly from his arms. They - the traitorous spies working for Alpha Liam ~ had stolen her right out from under his roof. To think he'd only been a few hallways away the entire time, that he could've prevented this if he hadn't been too busy playing politics.

You should rip out their throats. All of them, his wolf growled inside of his head. Chapter 86

Since he'd discovered his mate's disappearance hours ago, his wolf had spent most of the time growling and whimpering - sometimes both.

“I want to know how the fuck this happened,” Griffin snarled. “I want to know how my mate got kidnapped in a castle full of people.”

He was standing in a room with his most trusted advisors and the guards who'd been on duty when Clark disappeared. He stood at the head of the table, his claws digging into the wood until it splintered beneath his sharp nails.

The room was dead silent.

None of them dared to meet his gaze. Most of them looked nervous and panicked, whether that was because their Queen was kidnapped or they were just too afraid to elicit his wrath, he wasn't sure. He didn't care. None of it really mattered ~ nothing but finding his mate mattered.

“Isn't it obvious?”

The voice that broke the silence didn't belong to any of the guards or the advisors, but to the curly-haired girl standing in the corner: Alpha Alessia. Her face was twisted into a frown, and like Griffin, she was still clothed in the same outfit she'd worn to the reception.

Griffin hadn't said a word when Alessia and Lily Bellevue slipped into the meeting he'd called with his advisors or guards. He might've forced them out if it had been anyone else, but this was Clark's sister and sister-in-law. They deserved to know what was happening to their Chapter 86

family, and if nothing else, they could be assets in the search.

When Griffin didn't immediately reply, Alessia kept talking. “I mean, this was the perfect opportunity to kidnap someone,” she explained, “All of the guards were stationed where the guests were - at the party. And it's the biggest event of the decade, with most of the werewolf world being invited. Planting someone or even a couple of people at the party? That would've been a piece of cake for Alpha Liam. All his little spy had to do was get her alone and subdue her.”)

Griffin hated that she was right - that he hadn't been able to see the glaring flaw in having such a public coronation. This was his fault. He should have waited until he'd been able to hunt down Alpha Liam and kill him before crowning his mate.

But he hadn't, and his own impatience to make her his queen had painted a target on her back.

I'm going to kill him. I'm going to rip Liam's throat out with my teeth.

That violent thought had come from Griffin this time, not his wolf ~ although the beast was growling in agreement deep inside his mind.

Before he could respond to Alessia's words, the door to the meeting room opened and two guards stepped through. “Your Majesty,” one of them, a burly guard, said, “We searched the balcony and hallway as you requested, and found this. It was discarded in the corner of the Chapter 86

balcony.”

He clutched a dark suit jacket in his hands, and placed it gently on the table for the rest of the room to take in. Griffin narrowed his eyes at the fabric. It must've been from a guest, but the fact that they'd found it on the same balcony his mate disappeared on?

“That couldn't have been a coincidence. “Wait, let me see.”

Pushing her way through a couple of advisors and guards, Lily Bellevue didn't even bother asking for permission before she grabbed the jacket and took a long whiff.

“What is it?” Griffin asked, and his voice came out a little harsher than intended. Not that he really cared — he had no time for pleasantries or politeness right now.

“This scent,” Lily said with flared nostrils, “I've definitely smelt it before.” Alessia crept up behind Lily, keeping a hand on the small of her back.

Lily took another long sniff. “It's familiar...give me a second,” she said.

She stayed like that for a moment, pressing her face into the jacket and

keeping her eyes closed in concentration.

Several feet away, the anticipation was practically killing Griffin. He just wanted a name - a fucking name he could hunt down and kill. Chapter 86

“I remember now,” Lily finally said, opening her eyes and looking at Griffin, “The first night I came here with my siblings, we had dinner with your father. There were other people too here...and this scent was there. I remember it.”

Griffin's heart pounded. This fucker had been in his home before this?

She took another sniff. “And he sat close to us at the meeting,” she continued, “God, his name...Elias? No. Ezekiel? No. Ezra! That's it! Ezra of the Lock Heart pack. He had a British accent.”

Ezra of the Lock Heart pack.

Griffin didn't know this Ezra, but he knew of the Lock Heart pack. Their Alpha had been close with his father long ago, and they shared some of the same traditionalist beliefs. Clearly, that pack hadn't given up on those beliefs - not if they were willing to side with Liam, come into his home and kidnap his Queen.

“You're sure that's the scent?” Griffin asked, and for the first time since he'd entered the room, his skin was no longer crawling.

Lily nodded.

As if he could sense Griffin's intentions, one of his advisors butted in, “Your Majesty! Don't you think we should proceed with caution? This situation is complicated enough. We may have a lead, but the note says Chapter 86

that Alpha Liam wants to negotiate. Shouldn't we wait to hear his demands before we act? We don't know what we're walking into!”

“Wait,” Lily cut in, pressing her face into the fabric, “There's something

else too. It's faint, but...I smell my sister's scent on this jacket.” That was all the confirmation Griffin needed.

He didn't say a word, but something stifling and powerful fell over the room. His raw power. Nobody spoke, they didn't dare say a word. Griffin's claws dug further into the wood of the table, splintering it completely.

“No, I'm not waiting,” he finally said, his voice dangerously calm, “I'm not going to negotiate or hear demands. There's nothing complicated about it at all - I'm going to find my mate and then I'm going to kill everyone involved.”

If anyone had any objections to that, they didn't voice them.