

The Alpha King's Human Mate by HC Dolores

Chapter 90

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"There isn't a person in this city more dangerous than a wolf whose mate is in danger."

Patricia Briggs 7)

Although Griffin had no plans to negotiate with Liam, his "demands" came the next day. Those demands came in the form of a boy, who couldn't have been older than thirteen, showing up on the border of the royal territory.

He'd come with nothing but the clothes on his back and a message for Griffin: Alpha Liam will meet you in two days at Lock Heart territory. Come alone. He's prepared to hand over your mate and let you live in exchange for your willing surrender of the crown.

That message had been laughable, even when Griffin heard it from the child's own lips. Did Liam really think it would be that easy? That he'd just show up, completely alone, and bend the knee to a tyrant? That might as well have been a suicide mission.

If Liam had even half a brain cell, then he knew there was no surrender. Not for anyone. Perhaps Liam would try to surrender when this was all said and done, when Griffin had taken out his entire army and those who supported him, but it would be pointless. There was no possible outcome where Liam came out of this situation alive. Chapter 90

And those around Griffin seemed to agree ~ especially Lily and Alessia.

"Does he think we're stupid?" Alessia scoffed. All three of them stood in one of Griffin's meeting rooms. He'd call a meeting with his advisors later, but for now, he only cared to update those who cared just as much about rescuing his mate as he did: her sister and her sister's mate. .*

Not to mention, both women had proved themselves quite valuable these past few days. As resourceful as they were, he didn't mind using them as a sounding board for his ideas.

"Apparently," Griffin growled.

"I can't believe he used a little boy to deliver his message," Lily added. "How sick is this guy?"

"It's his own version of a fail-safe," Griffin explained. "If he handed over one of his warriors, he'd be losing a soldier and it's possible he could torture him for information."

"A child isn't as 'valuable' to Liam's cause," Alessia continued, "Plus,

he's counting on the fact that we wouldn't hurt a child."

And he was right. Griffin had no plans to hurt the child. That's something his father might've done, but not him.

He was only a slip of a boy anyway, clearly terrified and just following orders. He'd put the boy up in one of the guest bedrooms under guard, and sent Nadia in with something to eat. Chapter 90

If the child did have information, Griffin was sure he'd be much more

willing to give it to them under a few blankets than under a knife.

"What's crazy," Alessia said, her face twisted into a dark frown, "Is that Liam expects you to believe he'd follow through on his demands. Even if you did go there alone and surrender in exchange for Clark's life, there's no way Liam would let you walk out alive."

"I know," Griffin replied, "He's trying to seize the crown by force but you don't dethrone a king unless you Kill him. I know that better than anyone. I have no doubt that Liam intends to kill me and my mate."

Even as he said it, the thought of his little fox dying was like a gut punch. That would not happen, Griffin would not allow it. If he had to take down Liam's entire army with just his own claws and teeth to keep her alive, he would.

These past few days, he had tried to channel the anger and panic he felt over her capture into the rescue mission. It didn't make the agony or panic go away, but at least he could put them to use. They kept him sharp and constantly aware, thinking of how he was going to save her. He hadn't slept in three days, and he'd only eaten enough to keep him on his feet. Every ounce of energy he had went towards planning her rescue.

"The Lock Heart pack," Lily suddenly said, her eyebrows furrowed, "That's Ezra's pack. Liam is trying to meet you on Ezra's territory... why?" Chapter 90

"If Thad to guess," Alessia answered, sliding her hand onto the back of Lily's neck in a soothing gesture, "It has to do with logistics. Ezra is Liam's biggest ally — the Lock Heart pack is huge, so he's got the biggest army there."

Alessia was right. The Lock Heart pack wasn't just the biggest pack in England but in Europe altogether. (7)

"And that's what he's going to use if you show up," Alessia continued, "If that fucker has his own pack, Ezra's, and whoever else he's managed to brainwash..."

"He'll outnumber my own pack," Griffin finished. He didn't have the same numbers as Liam, but he doubted Liam's soldiers were as well-trained as his were. Only the best of the best could serve as warriors under the King.

"Well, it won't just be your pack," Alessia cut in, "Lily and I have warriors too. Our pack isn't as large as some, but they're well-trained and loyal. They won't let you down."

"and my dad's pack," Lily added, "There's no doubt in my mind that my father would give you every single one of my soldiers and my brother if you asked, and you should ask. Blacktooth is one of the largest packs in the US." +)

With three packs behind him, his numbers would equal Liam's. And with better-trained soldiers than Liam's... Chapter 90

Well, Griffin was one step closer to severing Liam's head from his body and reuniting with his mate.

"How soon can you gather your warriors, including your father's?" Griffin asked them.

The girls looked at each other. "If they shift and run here...then tonight," Alessia said. "I'll mind-link my Beta immediately."

"And 'll speak with my father and brother," Lily said. "Dad's worried enough as it is about Clark, and my brother will want to go with us. I'm sure of it."

Griffin nodded. "Good. We leave tonight then," he said, and then he paused. "I hope you know that your help to save your Queen doesn't go unnoticed."

For a moment, there was a crack in Lily's worried expression as she rolled her eyes. "You don't need to be so stiff with us, you know," she said, "I'm not here to save my 'queen' ~ I'm here to save my sister. They just happen to be the same thing. Not to mention, we're all family here." 2)

Griffin nodded. She was right. They were family, and that felt like a foreign concept to him. The only family he'd ever known was his father, and there hadn't been much love there. To think his circle had expanded to include in-laws was something he was still coming to terms with. Chapter 90

"You know," Alessia suddenly cut in, and her voice was quiet and full of something that Griffin couldn't identify. "This rescue mission for Clark...I think you should prepare yourself for the possible outcome."

Griffin's eyes narrowed. "The outcome? There is only one outcome of this situation - my mate, back in my arms, and Liam getting torn to shreds."

Alessia shook her head, her face stoic. "That's not what I'm talking about."

Even Lily looked confused by what Alessia meant.

"[think you should consider that Clark may not be the same when she comes back to you."

"What do you mean?" Griffin asked even though some part of him, deep down, had a feeling he knew.

"Think about it," Alessia said, "Liam hates you. He can't take that hate out on you, but he can take it out on Clark. You may get her back alive, but you should prepare for the possibility that Liam may not have been kind to her in captivity." (*)

The growl that tore from Griffin's mouth rocked the room, and Lily and Alessia barely managed to keep their footing. His claws came out, but since he'd been clenching his fists, they only tore into his own skin.

He barely registered the blood that dripped onto the floor as he Chapter 90

thought about Alessia's words.

It's not as if he hadn't considered the possibility that Liam would hurt his little fox in any number of ways. He wasn't a moron. He knew that Liam would take any chance he could to humiliate and hurt him.

The problem was that if he thought about it - actually thought about the ways that might happen — for more than two seconds, he was afraid he'd kill whoever was unfortunate enough to be standing close to him.

Panic and anger only do you good when you're putting them to use, he reminded himself.

It took just about every ounce of willpower he had to push the thought of Liam hurting Clark to the back of his mind, but he managed to do it. Instead, he held onto the one thing he knew — that she was alive. He'd feel it through their bond if she died, he was sure of that.

That's all that mattered to him. She was alive. And he was going to make sure she stayed that way. "Right now, all I care about is getting her back," Griffin finally ground

out, "Whatever might've happened to het my arms."

ll fix it when she's back in

Alessia didn't look very convinced, but she didn't press him further.

Griffin took another deep breath to calm himself down when suddenly, Chapter 90

he felt it. The bond. .')

It was as if someone had reached into his chest and tugged on his heart so hard that he actually felt himself stumble. He steadied himself almost immediately, but Lily and Alessia were both on alert.

"What's going on?" Lily asked with wide eyes.

Griffin would've answered had it not been for the assault of images that flashed through his mind ~a prison cell with a heavy silver door, Alpha Liam standing in the doorway, a familiar dress caked with dirt, and a petite girl holding water.

They only lasted a moment, but there was no mistaking the source. His little fox.

They were from her. Somehow, she'd reached through the bond and sent them his way. She'd accessed the bond, she'd actually done it.

The connection wasn't strong, but it was there - she was there. She was alive and capable of accessing the bond. Before he felt it fade completely, Griffin attempted to reach out and call to her. The connection was gone before he could tell if it ever reached her, but he'd hoped it had.

"What the fuck was that?" Alessia asked, just as alarmed by Lily. They couldn't see the bond or feel it, but from the way he'd lurched forward, Chapter 90

they must've known something had happened. "It was her," Griffin rasped, "The bond...I just felt her." Lily gasped. "Clark? Is she okay?"

Griffin relayed the images to them with as much detail as he could, although his voice turned into a growl once he mentioned Liam. She'd clearly interacted with him, but he couldn't tell much from just the flash of an image.

"Wait a second," Alessia said once Griffin had finished talking, "That prison cell...it had a heavy silver door? And no windows? Like it was underground?"

Griffin nodded. "From what I could tell, yes." Alessia was silent for a moment, her eyebrows furrowed.

"What are you thinking, sweetheart?" Lily asked, turning to her mate with concern.

"The Crescent Moon Pack, Liam's pack, built an underground prison system a couple of centuries ago. It's the most impressive prison I've ever heard of," Alessia explained, "To be honest, I only know this because I was considering something similar for mine, so I did some research a while ago."

"Wait," Lily said, "You don't think that's where he's keeping Clark? At Chapter 90

his pack? In his message, he wanted Griffin to come to England ~ that's an ocean away from where you're talking about."

"ve been to Liam's territory," Griffin cut in, "Before the coronation. I took some of my warriors with me, but when I got there, the land was abandoned. Perhaps he's gone back and set up camp again — it'd be an easy way to throw me off his scent."

"But if Liam and Clark are in America," Lily said, "What's waiting for you at Ezra's pack, where he wants you to surrender?"

"an army, most likely," Alessia spat, her lips curling into a snarl. "Of course, a coward like Liam wouldn't want to go head-to-head with you himself. He'll let his soldiers do the dirty work, and even if they lose, he'll still have Clark as leverage."

"Not for long," Griffin said, "Gather your packs tonight and P'll gather mine. We leave tonight, and tomorrow...I'll end this for good."

The bond had already closed, but Griffin still called out to her in his mind.

My little fox. I'm coming to save you. I promise.