

5 princes and I By Kiraran Chapter 26 - 30

Chapter 26 The Elven Magic

“This is stupid. We should have never told her about us. I wish we could have waited a little more.” Nate suddenly said and ran a hand through his hair.

“Oh really? Why haven’t I thought of that?” Ren said sarcastically and snorted. Nate, not in the mood, suddenly glared at him. “Don’t act as if you have no part in this, Rutledge. The moment that we found an opening to tell her the truth, you and Dan were equally as eager as we are.”

Here they go again. Should he shoot another arrow towards them? And why does Ren keep on sharing his alpha link with him?

“That’s because we thought that Rose might have put two and two together when she read the damn book!” Ren countered with a growl.

As soon as the words came out of Ren’s mouth – he means alpha link.

The headache faded and the memories of last night started to surface for some unknown reason. He was in the library with Rose. It was the time wherein she asked me about the book and my elf form.

But the look on her face when he confirmed that the information in the book is real, something was sparkling in her eyes. It was hope.

And then the open page of the book earlier before they left the room. It was open and a certain page was ripped out of it. And that certain page is the map of the kingdom.

She must have read something from the book. He just knows it. And that certain something made her desperate to sneak out of the castle to go and look for it. Just what is that something that gives her hope?

He doesn’t know anything about her. What could have given her hope? For all he knows, her only wish is to leave this place. And to leave this place, she has to use the white orb, which is currently short of magic. Then it suddenly dawned on him.

Oh crap!

Of course! How can he be such an idiot?

All she wanted was to go back home. Unfortunately, she couldn’t because of the lack of magic from the orb. But what if there is another way to take her back home? Another way out of this mess?

He had read something about it. It's magic similar to the white orb that the kingdom of Thalia poses. It's a black orb. Magic similar yet dangerous. It's full of forbidden magic. It was made by a witch who wanted to resurrect the dead for the sake of reviving her dead lover. Unfortunately, everything went wrong and she ended up reviving every dead supernatural and unleashing them in our world. It broke the balance of nature. As a result, the door of the dead opened. Every supernatural who was dead came on a rampage. They started to kill everyone in sight. It was a ma**acre. To stop it, a group of witches and warlocks alike grouped to create the white orb to close the gate once and for all. And to send the dead back in the other world.

To make it short; Is the black orb bad? YES!!!

And who is stupid enough to go and look for it? THE IDIOTIC FAKE PRINCESS!!

He just realized her situation after their meeting in the library last night when they suggested that Rose returns to her world for her safety. Then the Queen finally told them about Rose's situation and why she couldn't send her back.

If she is looking for the dark orb then they have to find her sooner. And the last he heard it was in the kingdom of Tereau. Which is not good news either.

Ever heard of the Seelie and Unseelie? The two kingdoms are just like that.

Well the Seelie, in our dictionary, is the Kingdom of Thalia. The Unseelie, on the other hand, is the Kingdom of Terra. It means that in every world, there is good and bad. In their world, the separation is evident between Thalie and Tereau.

The Kingdom of Tereau is bad news. They are full of rogues who oppose the ruling of the Kingdom of Thalia. They are ruled by a king who wants them gone. You could say that he can be a villain.

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But back to the matter at hand...HOW CAN THAT IDIOT STILL WANT TO GO THERE!?!

She'll be killed on sight! Who knows how far she's gone by now?

Sometimes her idiocy makes him want to slap his palm to his face.

And worse of all? He hadn't thought of this possibility sooner! This is his fault anyway. He figured that there was something sus***ious about Rose yesterday, but he ignored it. he should have been more sensitive.

"I'll go and have a little walk. Find me when they arrive." He told them and got up from my spot and headed deeper into the forest where he can think clearly.

They have to find her now! But how would they know which road she took? She's cloaked!

Dan, Ren, and Fred are useless. Even Nate and I!

He punched the tree beside him in frustration. "I'm useless! My brain and skills are the only ones that I have and I can't use them!" He cursed and leaned his head on the tree and closed his eyes, then he felt something. Magic. He could feel it. The tree was vibrating and was whispering to him. It was calling to him. Telling him to just let go. It wants him to use his dying magic.

The magic that he despised and wanted to kill. The magic that took his freedom away.

Just because it was believed to have vanished along with the first and original elves.

He opened his eyes and stared at the tree in wonder. He wanted to get rid of his magic because his mother and father always kept him hidden. They treat him like he's someone special. They wouldn't even let him play with his two older brothers. They never let him out of their sight. He couldn't leave the house without a guard to watch his back. If he disappeared even a second from them, they would freak out. All because he possesses the gift bestowed upon to first elves.

For all they know, those kinds of magic should be dead by now.

That is why his mother and father are very strict when it comes to him. Once, his brother sneaked him out to play by the lake with them. When their parents found out about this, they had punished his two idiotic brothers by making them kneel in salt. You might think that they hated him after that, but no. They just laughed it off and made jokes about who has the largest gashes on them. Despite how stupid and annoying they are, it kind of hurt him to see them punished.

So I decided that he doesn't want his gifts anymore.

He has had enough of being locked up. His parents told him that it was for his good. What if the people found out, Someone might attempt to kill him in fear of his powers or even take him so they can make use of them. Killing his power is not an easy process. For us elves, to kill your magic, you must not use it for 10 years. By killing your magic, you are also rid of your identity as an elf. Through the years, an elf's ears would slowly smooth en and would lose their edginess when its powers are about to die.

He hasn't used him in 9 years. That's why the shape of his ears is not that visible anymore.

He stared at his hands in wonder. He can't find Rose, but his magic surely can. But is he willing to throw those 9 years away just to look for that annoying little brat?

Heck no.

But he wouldn't be able to live with the guilt.

From the distance, he could faintly hear the hooves of a horse galloping in the distance. It was probably Fred and Dan.

From the sound of it, Fred was getting frustrated as he asked Nate if they found anything yet. Great. The Rose-searching team is complete.

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He stared at the sky. Two hours left before the sun would start to sink.

He closed his eyes and took a deep breath as he made his final decision. That girl is in deep sh*t for putting him through all this!

He placed his palm on the tree and closed his eyes. He let himself in with the forest. Before, this was easy, but since he hasn't used his magic in 9 years, he was having a hard time with it. And don't forget that it was dying too.

It took him a while before he was finally able to tap in with the forest. The trees began to rustle without any wind. He could feel his ears starting to reshape themselves. He could even picture it coming back to its true form.

He started to picture Rose in his mind: Idiotic face, stupid, and annoying.

He didn't get a response

He let out a curse. Maybe he's not doing it right. Maybe he should just picture Rose in my mind.....

He tried again. This time, he pictured Rose's face. Her features lighting up as she let out a grin. Her greyish-blue eyes sparkling with energy and her ash-blonde hair framing her face.

In other words: Hideous!

A second later and he felt himself being pulled – or at least his consciousness. The forest was showing him the way through their eyes. I was traveling from tree to tree in fast forward until I was finally able to spot a familiar blonde in a red hood through the eyes of a deer.

She was cursing when her foot got stuck in the mud.

How stupid can she get?

“Damn it!! Don’t they have boots in this place!? I could seriously use one. Curse you all supernaturals for still living in a Disney world! Barbie would have been so much better.” She mumbled and tried to pull her foot out. When she finally got her foot out she fell to the ground. But one of her shoes was still left in the mud. She let out a frustrated sigh and faced the forest. “Seriously? Oh, come on!! I don’t have time to play Cinderella!! I just wanted to go home! Is that too much to ask?” He snorted at her stupidity.

Well, at least now he knows her whereabouts and the knowledge that she is safe.

The vision started to blur and he was now seeing through the eyes of a hawk. He was flying. He could see Rose from where he was looking.

But that wasn’t all.

A few distances from her are some rogues who are headed in her way. They were both muscular and bulky. One of them has a huge scar running along his cheeks while the other one, shirtless, has long scars starting from the neck to the waist. He didn’t have to see their marks to know that they are rogues. He cursed.

This isn’t good.

It’s not that he’s worried about them tainting her or something. But there was a very foreign present lurking in the shadows. And it’s not another rogue. He’s sure of that.

With a final burst of energy, he willed the forest to cover Rose for a while. It’s one of the perks of having ancient powers. You can control the forest and the earth.

After that, he quickly ran in the direction of the other princes.

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They were standing in a circle and talking about some places where Rose could have gone to. They paused once he arrived.

Dan and Ren tilted their head to the side as he looked at him while Nate’s jaw dropped.

“Prince Ace,” Fred started as he gave a curious look. “What happened to your ears? I thought you said that your powers are dead.”

His hands slowly traced the outline of his ears. It was true. They have become pointed and a bit longer. The true identity of an elf. A reminder that he has just tossed away those 9 years of the long wait.

“They’re back.” That was all he said. “But it doesn’t matter. I know where she is now.”

Nate seemed to have finally snapped back to reality. “Really? How?”

He asked. He once again stared at my ears. He is asking about his powers.

He shook my head. "I said it doesn't matter! Rose is about to bump into some rogues. If we don't hurry then who knows what will happen to her." He said. Ren and Dan quickly growl while Nate and Fred have a frown on their faces.

"Then tell us where she is." Said Fred. If he wasn't a prince, he would have kicked his face by now.

How dare he order me around! I'm a prince!!

Oh yeah. So is he.

He ignored Fred and went to Ren and Dan, who were still in their wolf form. "Use your alpha link with me to see Rose's whereabouts. Tap into my mind. Quickly." He ordered them. Werewolves are way faster than horses and any vampire. If anyone could get to Rose quickly, it would be these two. He felt the link of the two in his head and let them tap into the part where he had seen Rose and the rogues. A snarl escaped from their lips.

Without another word, they quickly dashed into the forest, which he assumed was the way to Rose.

Nate, Fred, and Ace looked at each other and nodded before they all climbed on their horses to follow them. He could tell that Nate and Fred still have some suspicion about how he was able to find Rose. For all he knows, they might have probably started guessing some common elven magic. But his gift is unique. He can see through the eyes of the forest and animals. He can even command them if he wishes to.

Well too bad for them. My magic is older than the ones they're thinking. He thought.

All they know is that his magic has returned. All because of some stupid search of a damn princess whom he will skin alive once they find her.

He climbed onto the saddle and positioned himself there. He noticed something different so he looked to his side. There, the once rotten part of the tree was now revived. It was once again green and good as new. To taunt him more of his resurrected powers, a few flowers started to bloom.

Great. Just great! Years of containing his mana suddenly went down the drain and are now becoming unstable. He gritted his teeth and forced the magic in. His body tensed at the pressure of his unstable magic. It was lashing at him from the inside.

He forced his mind to focus. There's nothing that he can do about it now. What's done is done.

He'll have to deal with the consequences later.

Chapter 27 Beast Men

"Take that you evil mosquito!" There was a loud smack as I slapped my arm. Who would have thought that they still have mosquitoes in this world? I thought that the only bloodsuckers in this world are the vampires.

I growled in frustration when I didn't hit it. This isn't my day. Who the heck even said that having a field trip to the other part of the kingdom would be so tiring? Stupid movies and fiction for giving us fall interpretation when we hear the word adventure. Sure, in fiction, when the main character would venture out into the woods, she would experience all sorts of fun adventures and get to be super cool for being resourceful.

In reality? It stinks! The kind of adventure that I was hoping for is a disaster. I kept on tripping and falling. My dress is ruined and I'm hungry. I lost a shoe and now mosquitoes are after me.

Stupid woods.

I want to find a lake to clean up and drink. I'm thirsty. Someone, please give me water.

I continued to walk – drag – myself. I pulled out the map that I tore from the book and began to read it. Every time that I get deeper into the forest, I always check the map to make sure that I won't get lost. For the past hours, I always know where to go. But now, I'm not so sure.

I was pretty sure that I saw a path here before but now it's gone. It's as if the forest itself has somehow moved or something. If it did, I wouldn't be surprised considering that this is a magical world after all.

But I also have this strange feeling. Like someone was watching me, which is creeping me out. The hairs on the back of my neck stood as I felt a pair of eyes staring at me. I don't know why I have this feeling but I somehow do.

Reluctantly, I turned. There, I saw a white rabbit by the bush staring at me. Its white fur stands out making it more visible. Its black eyes – still staring at me – are creeping me out. And I couldn't help but feel that behind those black beady eyes of a rabbit, someone is behind them.

I tilted my head to the side and the rabbit followed my movement. Okay, you have to admit that the rabbit is kind of cute. But it's still creepy at some point. I started to turn around and leave. Once I was a few steps away, I dared to look back and saw that the rabbit's eyes were still following me. For a second, it just stayed there. Then, as if it was sleeping, it shook its head and rubbed its face before hopping off somewhere.

That's weird. I thought as I continued to walk away.

My stomach kept on making a sound as I walked. I'm hungry. I feel like I'm in the hunger games. Literally. My throat is dry and the sun isn't helping with my mood either. My dress gets ruined every few seconds as it gets caught on a tree branch. My hood, on the other hand, is pretty much good as new. I don't know why but it doesn't get stained no matter what dirt would cling to it. It must be because of its material or something. How I wish that this dress that I'm wearing is made of the same material as the red hood.

My knees started to hurt from the continued walks so I decided to take a rest. I slump down on the ground and lean against a tree for its shade. I sighed and took out the piece of paper with the map on it. This doesn't make any sense. I was sure that I've been keeping tabs on my tracks. How can I end up lost?

Maybe this map was a little too old to be of use.

In my frustration, I crumpled the map and tossed it aside. Then I buried my face in my hands. I'm not gonna cry. I'm not a cry baby. I'll think of away. Yes, I will.

I groaned. "But that's easier said than done if I have a full stomach," I whined and now buried my face in my arms.

I want food!! Where the heck do the main characters in the movies get something to eat?

Something then brushed my arm and I turned to look-glared at the animal(literally) that nudged me. It was a reindeer with fully developed horns. Its black doe eyes were staring at me. For only a second its eyes had changed to a navy blue color, which was kind of familiar in a disturbing way.

The reindeer then ducked its head and a bunch of fruits fell off of its horn onto my lap. One of the fruits had thorns on it and pricked my skin.

"PANCAKES!" I yelled in pain and glared at the reindeer. "I appreciate the food delivering service but do you have to pick fruit with thorns? And more importantly, drop it on my lap?"

The reindeer snorted and rolled its eyes at me.

"But um, thanks," I mumbled gratefully. If this deer is a human with dark hair and navy blue eyes, I would have thought that this is Ace in front of me.

Without further adieu, I started to eat. The reindeer decided to stay and watch me, which was very creepy if you ask me. It was sitting at a corner and would occasionally glance at me or clean its fur. And because that animal was starting to scare me, I ate

my food as fast as I could and started to stand up. Once I did, the deer decided to stand too.

Now, this is this thing that just turned creepy to a whole new level. I sat again and the deer followed. Hmmm...

I stood and the deer stood too.

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I think I'm getting some sort of pattern here. First, it was the rabbit. Now, it was the deer. Is it possible that the animals here are like me?

"Aww, if you guys like me that much then why didn't you just approach me? Well obviously since you can't talk." I started to approach the deer so I could pet him. Immediately, its eyes turned from black to navy blue once again and glared at me. But still, I didn't let that bother me as I reached my hand out until I touched its head and started to pet him.

"Awe. You're so cute!" I cooed as I continued to pet him. The deer suddenly frowned and hit me with its head causing me to fall on the ground. My b*** hurt from the impact and this time, I was the one who glared at the deer. It was currently shaking its head as if it was in a daze.

Once it has settled, its eyes are now back to their black ones. When it saw me, it got startled and ran away into the forest.

Right. I should have thought of this before.

Weird World = Weird animals. Period.

I should stop goofing around and start to look for my way out of this forest. I think I can now manage to travel after having a good – if not satisfying – meal.

I got up and dusted my dress as I prepared to travel again. But first things first; I need a drink. Despite eating the fruits, my throat still craves water. And I think I might have seen a river here somewhere.

I started to head south – or is it North? – from where I was. I kept heading that way until I saw something sparkling up ahead. It was a river, glistening in the sunlight like diamonds. I was standing there like an idiot as I gape at it. It was unlike the river in our world.

It was...clean and it looks so fresh and unpolluted. Seeing the river made me gulp down in thirst and my feet just started to move towards it.

Halfway there, I was suddenly blocked by the same deer that headb***ed me earlier. It was as if it was preventing me from getting closer to the river.

“You again? What do you want?” I glared at the deer.

The deer snorted and aimed its horn towards me as if it was warning me not to take another step forward.

“What? You’re going to headb*** me again? Well in your smelly doe face!!” I yelled and started to head towards the river but the deer blocked me once again and positioned its horn at my face.

And now I’m pissed.

Believe it or not, I grabbed the deer by its horns and started to push it back. The deer too had started to push me back.

I can’t believe I am doing this!

“Stupid deer! What’s your problem anyway?! It’s not like it’s your freaking river!” I pushed the deer back with all my might but to no avail.

This deer is freaking heavy!

Well, I’m kind of stupid for challenging an animal anyway. But it’s not my fault! I just wanted to have a drink at the river! Is that wrong?

An idea suddenly formed in my mind making me smile evilly at the deer as it continued to push me back. It doesn’t seem to have an interest in hurting me though. I guess it doesn’t want me near the river. But I’m thirsty!

With one hand, I removed my hood from my shoulder and drew it at the deer’s face. The deer then stopped pushing me as it busied itself with taking the hood off of its face.

I took that chance as I sprinted past it and headed towards the water. Once I was there, I started to wash my face first to freshen it up. My face was starting to disgust me anyway. After that, I rinsed my hands and scooped up some water with my palms as I drank. The water was so fresh, unlike anything I have tasted before. Our water supply in our world cannot compare to the water in the river here. It was clean and pure.

A snap of a twig brought me out of my admiration to the water as I looked up.

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“Well well well. What do we have here? A royal.”

MEANWHILE

Ren and Dan's paws pounded the ground as they took off. Their fur swaying to the air around them as they ran.

'Keep up, Dan!'

Ren barked at him. Dan panted as he tried to keep up with him. He knows that it isn't fair for him to take out his frustration on his brother, but every second only increased his bubbling tension and eagerness to find Rose. According to Ace, Rose is somewhere deep within the forest and dangerously close to meeting two rouges. Their best chance is finding that lake.

Stupid girl. Why would she even run away? Did they treat her badly or does she hate them? Whatever the reason is, they aren't as bad as the people from the Kingdom of Terra.

Stupid. Stupid. Stupid! Just thinking about what'll happen to Rose after she encounters the rouges.

What will be left of her after that...

Ren's hackles raised the meat image. Nothing will happen to her. They won't allow it.

'We'll make it, Ren. Stop worrying and slow down. You're increasing your speed again.'

'No we won't.' He said. 'With the pace that we're heading, Rose must have bumped into them already. We need to hurry.'

'True that, but if you keep that up, then you won't have the energy to fight to protect Rose or even yourselves.'

'Screw about my safety.'

'No, Ren. Screw you. You'll die in the hands of those rouges without even fighting. I'm telling you not to slow down but to not push yourself.'

He growled.

'Ren!'

'Fine! Alright, you bossy little brother. He rolled his eyes. Sometimes I wonder who's the eldest am*** us. You act as if you are older.'

Dan then let out a toothy grin while Ren grunted and sniffed the air. Hoping against hope that they would get a whiff of her scent. None. Rose was still cloaked. His wolf feels blind to not being able to sniff her out. He can say the same to his brother.

'But I'm just wondering... .' Dan suddenly wondered so Ren looked at him.

'What is it?'

'How did A- I mean – PRINCE Ace managed to locate her?'

Now that Dan has mentioned it, he suddenly got curious. But he didn't let that get to him. He knows his priority at the moment.

'Who knows? For all, we know he must have blackmailed a pixie to locate her or something. But let's leave that topic for some other time. Right now we have to find Rose first.'

'Agreed.'

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There was a moment of silence between them as they continued their pursuit for Rose. They were taking too long and Ren even considered running off ahead. They both know that when it comes to running, Ren is always the winner.

He's not boasting or anything. Just expressing the facts.

'Ren!!'

'What?' He asked. Did he somehow read his mind?

'Sniff the air.'

'Why?' He asked dumbly. 'You didn't fart did you?'

'Just do it!'

Dan growled in frustration which caught him completely off guard. He rarely snaps unless it's important or he hears something that he doesn't like. So to say, Dan is the calm one between the twins.

He did what Dan asked him to and sniffed the air. His nose then caught a fairly familiar scent. A trace of lavender mixed with rose petals entered his line of smell. He looked at Dan in both surprise and fear.

'Rose.'

Dan nodded. Confirming his guess. But why can they sniff her now? Isn't she cloaked? What does this mean? But wait. If they can sniff her now, then the rouges must have sniffed her already. They do not doubt that they have. Those two rouges are

Were people too. Their people.

'Damn it!' He cursed and started to run faster.

'Ren!' Dan called beside him as he tried to keep up.

'Don't you Ren me, Dan! Don't you know what this means? The rouges must have sniffed her out already!'

I know. That's why I'm telling you to go on ahead. Dan nodded at him in encouragement. Now he's fairly torn on what he should do. He never left his brother behind. That is why he is always urging him to keep up. When he's going against a fight, which might be sooner or later, he'll always have Dan beside him as his backup or the other way around. He can't just leave him. Not when he needs him.

As if reading his mind, Dan rolled his eyes as he snored.

'Go on, Ren. Trust me, you can handle this. I'll catch up in a few seconds. I promise.'

'But –'

There was a scream. Roses scream to be exact. His hackles rose as he snarled in the direction of the scream. By now, his eyes must have started to narrow themselves in anger.

'Go, Ren!! Trust your wolf. I believe it's eager to tear those rouge's limbs apart.' Dan winked at him and ushered him using his snout.

He nodded. 'Make sure to catch up or else.'

Ren warned as he ran. The forest passes by in a series of blurs and he has to squint his eyes to see. Rose's scent was getting stronger. And the closer he gets, he can smell two foreign scents.

'They better not touch her or else. I will rip them to shreds.'

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Chapter 28 Dogs vs Cats

In front of me were two muscle builders. Well not really. They have the looks but the scars on their faces made them look...well you know. Like a gangster.

One of them was bald with a few scars on his body and face. He would have been handsome if it weren't for the few missing teeth. I wonder where his teeth are. And beside him is a brunette. He was very muscular. It's like 100% of his body is made out of muscles. He was also full of scars. One of them was connected to his lips making it look like his lips were sewn. Creepy.

They were both grinning at me as they looked at me up and down. I frowned and crossed my arms over my chest.

Perverts.

"So. What's a royal doing here? You're far from home, aren't cha?" Baldy said, still grinning. I suddenly have this urge to count his remaining tooth.

"Um....not really," I said hesitantly.

"Well, what are you doing here then?" Brunette asked.

I hesitated. Should I tell them? Well, it can't be all bad. Maybe I should try asking them. After all, beggars can't be choosers, right?

"I'm looking for the Kingdom of Tereau," I said. Both men looked at each other in confusion before shifting their gazes back at me.

"What's a royal from the Kingdom of Thalia having business with the Kingdom of Tereau?"

"That's my business," I said. "But hey, what do you mean by a royal?"

Baldy gave me a surprised look as if I was stupid for not knowing that or something. They must have assumed that I am from their world, which I am not. Mind you.

"Well....a royal is from a royal family. We just thought that you're a royal because of your dress, even though it's covered in mud." Baldy then pointed at my dress before giving me a look. "You are a royal, right? Or are we mistaken?"

I thought about my option. I mean, I did come – escaped – from the royal family, right? Is being a royal an advantage or a disadvantage for me? I mean, if I say that I am a royal then they might help me, but if I say that I am not, then I might be in some sort of trouble. So I decided to take the first choice.

I held up my chin in confidence as I said, "Yes. I'm a royal. In fact. I'm the niece of Queen Elizabeth."

The two then have a creepy grin on their faces as they whispered to each other. "Blah blah King Fergus Blah blah Promoted whisper."

“Yeah, whisper King Fergus be happy to whisper blah blah Prince Kellar whisper.”

“Um...excuse me?”

Both of them suddenly came into attention and had the widest grin – not to mention creepy – on their faces. “So you are headed to the Kingdom of Tereau, am I correct?” Said, brunette guy.

“Yes...”

“Then we’ll take you there.” I looked at baldy who offered and couldn’t help but narrow my eyes at them suspiciously.

“No thank you. Just giving me the directions that I needed would be enough.”

“Naw. What kind of gentlemen would we be if we leave you without an escort? You’re a royal after all.” The brunette guy suddenly grabbed my wrist tightly and it made me flinch.

“Hey! Let me go.” I tried to pull my hand, but the more I pulled the tighter he held it.

“Come on them, Princess. We shall take you to the Kingdom of Tereau.” Baldy then started to come forward.

“I said I can go there myself without a chaperone you creeps! Let me go!” They laughed at my futile attempts as I punched the brunette guy on his chest.

“She punches like a bug.” Brunette commented, making both him and baldy laugh.

Punch like a bug?

In my anger, I bit his hand that was holding me. He let out a yelp as he released my hand. Baldy tried to reach for me then, but I swung my foot up and kicked his manhood. Once the brunette was able to recover, he backhanded me across the cheek making me fly. I landed on the ground with a thump and clutched my aching cheek. It was too painful that my eyes started to water and I felt dizzy.

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“HOW DARE YOU BIT ME!!” Brunette guy growled inhumanly. When I looked up, I saw that his eyes had changed into narrow cat-like slits. Baldy was once again on his feet, but his face was more like a cat’s than a human’s. I shivered.

The brunette guy started to walk towards me so I grabbed the nearest tree branch and hit him with it. He was able to block it. He grabbed the tree branch and tossed it into the river. Now leaving me weaponless. I looked at the guy and screamed as soon as he

grabbed me by my collar and tossed me to the ground once again. But not before I threw sand at his eyes.

“YOU LITTLE B***H!!” With one final roar, the brunette guy and baldy dropped to the ground in all four. There was a snapping of bones and in no time, there was a lion in front of me and a cougar behind it.

I screamed in terror at the sight in front of me.

I scrambled to my feet in an attempt to run away from them. In my attempt, the Lion grabbed a hold of my dressmaking me fall to the ground again while the cougar managed to block my escape by jumping in front of me.

I’m doomed. I have never been this scared in my entire life. Looking at the eyes of the cougar, I can slowly see my life in its hands. I’m going to die.

I closed my eyes as I waited for them to snap at me. If I’m going to die then I don’t want it to be as scary as it is now. I can feel the lion putting its paws behind my back and pushing me towards the ground.

Then I heard it. A howl. It came somewhere from the forest. I couldn’t tell.

Just then, the weight on my back was gone and replaced by a series of snarls and growls. I got curious and dared to take a peak. Beside me, I saw a huge wolf taking down the lion. The wolf scratched the lion on the face. The lion let out a roar and jumped onto its back and bit its neck. The wolf didn’t falter as it ran towards a tree and hit its back to the tree along with the lion.

The wolf was able to detach the lion from its back and was now biting through its neck. From the looks of it, the wolf was intent on killing. Its eyes were full of hatred.

A cat-like snarling brought me back to my problem. The cougar was still there in front of me, ready to attack. I let out a yelp and I back away from it. It let out a final growl and jumped at me, but it was then tackled by the same wolf. It gave a warning growl to the cougar as it stood in front of me. Blocking my view from the two cat predators. It had a few scratches and bite marks on one of its front paws and its face. The lion was back on its feet and stood beside the cougar. It glared at the lion before shifting its gaze back at me. I shivered and hid behind the wolf.

I don’t know why but for some reason I felt comfortable with this wolf. It seems familiar and I feel safe with its presence.

The wolf let out a loud growl at the two werecats as it stood its ground. The werecats then let out their roar. It was like they were conversing with each other. The cougar then leaped off to the ground and headed towards the wolf. The wolf, with its ma**ive paws, hit the cougar and sent it to the side without even moving from its spot. The lion then

took that chance as it charged at the wolf. They both rolled on the ground and the wolf then kicked the lion off of it. The wolf shook its head as if it was dizzy before giving me a head gesture to stay back. I did and backed away to the nearest tree.

How did my situation even come to this?

By now, as the two Weres were busy killing each other, the cougar was sneakily walking towards the wolf's back. Once I realized what it was about to do, I screamed. "NO!!"

The cougar leaped to its feet as it opened its jaws, ready to snap at the wolf's bare neck. Just as it was about to, another wolf came out of the forest and tackled the cougar away from the first wolf. Both are pretty similar to each other but this one had a white sock-like print to one of its front paws. The first wolf was finally able to separate itself from the lion and stood by the new wolf. It gave it a side glance as it snorted at it. The new wolf only let out a toothy grin and wagged its tail. For a second, it looked at me and winked before turning back to its enemy. Could wolves wink or is it my imagination?

By now, it was a battle between werewolves and werecats. The two wolves then took turns in attacking the werecats. One would take offense and the other as the defense. They were in perfect sync and the werecats couldn't keep up with them. In no time, the werecats realized that they were gonna lose the fight so they fled. The wolf, the first one, made a move to chase them but the other wolf blocked its way and gestured its head to me.

The first wolf turned and met my eyes. Its eyes then softened. All intent on killing is now gone. The two started to head on my way and I shrink back in fear. They both stopped from advancing as if sensing my fear. But the first wolf started to walk towards me again, this time, with its head bowed and its tail lowered. It approached me slowly as if it didn't want to scare me.

Once it did, it raised its head and looked at me in the eyes.

'Rose, it's me. Ren.'

A voice said from my head. It was Ren's voice. I started to search the forest trying to find its source, but I found none. By now, the second wolf was beside the first and wagging its tail at me.

'We're here, princess.'

And now Dan's voice is in my head. I searched the forest again. "Ren? Dan? Where are you?"

'In front of you, Princess.' Ren's voice said.

I looked at my front and found no one but the two wolves.

Wait. Two wolves...Ren and Dan.....their voices.....

“Ha...HA! I think I’m going crazy since I keep hearing Ren and Dan’s voices. And to think that they are the two wolves in front of me. That can’t be it. Haha!”

I turned towards the second wolf who was nudging me with its snout. It was frowning.
“Yep. You’re crazy alright. We are two talking werewolves here to ruin your world. Sounds good, right?” it said. I stared at the wolf in shock. And that does it.

I fainted.

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And as I fell, I felt something smooth catch me.

WITH THE TWINS

As Rose started to fall, Ren jumped in front of her to catch her.

Dan, his wolf form, was dying in laughter at her reason for fainting.

THWACK!

‘Ow!!’

Ren hit his brother on the head with one of his large paws.

‘Do you have to scare her like that?’ Ren asked in an annoyed tone.

Dan grinned at him and wagged his tail. ‘By scarring her do you mean the part where I opened my mouth and spoke in her mind at the same time?’

‘Yes! Now, look what you’ve done.’

‘Oh yes. I’m looking.’ He said and batted his wolf lashes. ‘And I’m feeling the chills. You know.’

‘Oh shut up. I’ll give you chills once I dump some ice cubes in your pants once we get back home. Now help me carry her.’ Ren said and gestured at the limp body Rose.

‘Ohhh... the playful Ren is back! Welcome back, big bro!!’

Of course, being the good and supportive sibling that he is, he laid on the ground dramatically. ‘Ow ow ow!! My back hurts! Ouch. That damn cougar gave me a few

bruises and bite marks. And to think that we are both males for him to give me a bite mark. Ugh!! I'm too handsome for my good.' Dan sighed.

Ren then snorted and his brother, who was now rolling on the ground. 'If anyone should have a say about bite marks then it should be me. I have more bite marks than you. That means I'm better looking than you.'

'In your dreams. Your face is my b***!'

'You have a nice b*** then.' Ren grinned and carefully shifted Rose to his back.

'Ah haha. Good one smart guy. I'll get you back for that later.'

Dan hid a grin as he followed them.

'By the way, Dan. You were late. Why is that?' Ren suddenly asked.

Dan let out a dramatic gasp. 'You accused me of being late? Well sorry. It's just that you were so fast that you left me behind.'

'I was that fast?'

'Yeah. You just heard Rose and you went whoosh!!'

'Really huh? Just admit it that you're getting slow, brother.'

'Maybe? I don't know.' Dan shrugged.

Well here's the thing. Dan was able to catch up with Ren just in time for the fight. But he just hid behind the forest and let his brother take the enemies down. Why? To impress the lady of course! He did say that he was the supportive brother, right?

Ren was handling it well, He was about to kill the werelion. But hearing Rose yelping made him stop and attack the cougar instead.

Tsk tsk tsk. He should have finished the werelion fast. No dear me. I have a dumb brother. Dan thought.

'Come on, Dan. You slowpoke.' And now Ren is boasting his speed.

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Tch! b*****. If only you knew the sacrifice I made for you. Plus, I am not the one who's slow around here. Dan smirked as he pocketed his thoughts. Good for nothing b*****~!!

'Dan? What's with your face? You look creepy. Wipe it off.' Ren made a face at him.

'Nothing Bastar – I mean, brother.'

Oh crap. Did he say that out loud? No! Don't kill me, Ren!! He still has some fangirls who love him~

Lucky for him that Rose took that time to mumble something. "Sweet potato deer salad. Take that you stupid deer...mmm."

Ren and Dan looked at each other. There was a pause between them before they started to laugh.

'What the heck is a potato deer salad!?!' Ren said in between laughs.

'Beats me. You ask a deer.'

"Deer..."

'Ow!!' Ren jumped and let out a whimper.

'What is it, Ren?' Dan's wolf suddenly got into full alert.

'Rose bit me! She bit me!!'

Dan rolled on the floor as he laughed out. 'Now That's a love bite.'

'A what?'

'Nothing. Let's just get her home. I believed our little princess is hungry.'

'Agreed. Let's go before she eats me alive and mutter something about wolf potato salad instead.'

Dan watched as his brother gently fixed Rose onto his back. He was really careful not to touch her now swollen cheek, which he just now noticed. No wonder Ren had a killer intent before. They hurt her, that was why Ren wasn't able to control himself by attacking the enemy. If he would have seen that bruise earlier then he might have attacked the b*****s instead of hiding.

Just looking at how Ren carried Rose made him want to step back and let them have their moment.

Nah!! It's payback time.

Dan grinned at Ren and started to sprint past them.

'Dan? Dan!! Get back here! Wait for us!!' Ren called. He can faintly hear him going to a slow jog.

'Try to keep up you slowpoke!'

In the Forest

He was a little late. He couldn't meet his master. It was watching a pair of wolves carrying his master. It whimpered sadly. His master was also unconscious. It was wary of them. It couldn't trust other races with its presence.

It looked in the direction where the rogues went and growled. Someday, those rogues will pay for harming his master.

The little wolf let out a small grunt as it shifted the weight of the red cloak in its mouth. It was certain that it belonged to his master and he would deliver it to her without fail. Maybe if he followed the wolves, he'll somehow get a chance to meet with her.

A couple of steps forward and he tripped on the cloak and well.

It might take a while to meet his master after all. He whimpered sadly.

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Chapter 29 Reality Pill

I don't remember what happened the last time I was conscious but my mouth tasted like I ate some fur.

What happened?

I woke up and the first thing that I noticed was the pain in my cheek and neck. Then I noticed that I was lying on a bed. I slowly rubbed the sleep from my eyes and was blinded by the rays of the sun coming from the window.

As soon as I was fully awake and conscious, I took a good look around me. It only confirmed my sus^{***}ion that I am once again back in the castle.

Damn.

I heard a light breath to my right and I turned my head to the side and saw someone sitting on a chair just beside my bed. His red hair is framing his eyes like flames when the sunlight hits it. He was holding a paper and was drawing something on it with charcoal.

What is he doing?

I stared at him for a few seconds before I focused on the paper that he was holding, trying to see what he was doing. Nate must have noticed me moving because he stopped and switched his attention back to me afterward.

When he caught my eye, he smiled – but it was more like a beam. His dimples showed as he did so. “Hey, you. You’re awake.” He said and turned his chair so that it was facing my bed. He set down his paper and charcoal on the side table and wiped his hand with his handkerchief.

“Hey,” I said groggily and sat up on my bed. Nate got up and went to the table. He took the pitcher and poured some water into a gla**. He came back and offered me the gla** which I thankfully took and drank. Once I was done, he took the gla** and placed it on the side table along with his paper.

“Thanks.” I forgot how thirsty I was.

“How are you feeling?” He asked me once he was seated back on his chair.

“Aside from feeling like a princess because a prince just served me water? I’m feeling great.” I joked, earning a light laugh from Nate.

“I would gladly serve you water any time.” He winked. I made a disgusted look.

“No.”

Nate threw his head back and laughed. “Ouch,” he said. Then he noticed me making a face. “What? What’s wrong?” He asked me seriously.

“I feel like I was hit by a truck. My whole body hurts.”

“What about your cheek?”

“My cheek? What about it?” As soon as I asked the question, Nate poked my cheek and I felt a twinge of pain. “Ow!!” I quickly slapped Nate’s hand away and glared at him.

“What’s the big idea?”

Nate’s expression turned dark. “Rose, what do you remember in the woods before Ren and Dan found you?”

“Huh?”

“How did you get that bruise on your cheek?” He continued to push. “Ren and Dan wouldn’t tell us a thing.”

“Ren and Dan?” I held out a hand to stop him once I noticed that he was about to ask me another question. “All I remember is finding a lake. After that, there were these two

huge muscled men who were acting strange once they heard I was a royal and were forced to e***** me. When I turned them down, they got pissed and slapped me. I think that's where I got the bruise." I touched my cheek while still trying to recall the events that had happened. "I tried to fight them but only managed to piss them off. After that...well....things got crazy because they suddenly turned into.....into.....OH MY GOSH!!!" I suddenly turned to Nate who was taken by surprise when I suddenly grabbed his shoulder and shook him back and forth.

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"They turned into...into...cats! I mean the large predator ones: A Lion and a cougar. And then...and then...they started to attack me but a wolf came out of nowhere and attacked the lion...after that, another wolf came."

"Uh-huh. Go on." Nate just gave me a look as he nodded. He probably thinks I'm going crazy here and I shook him back and forth.

"And then the wolf kicked the cat's b***s....and then....and then.....the wolves started talking and...I think that's it. The next thing I know I'm in this room. No Ren or Dan spotted."

Nate sighed and gently took my hands from his arms. "Rose, those wolves who 'kicked the cat's b***s' are Ren and Dan."

I stared at Nate for a long time before I flick his forehead.

"Hey. What was that for?" He rubbed the part where I had hit him.

"Stop joking around, Nate. People don't turn into wolves, okay?" I patted his head.

"Oh really? Then how do you explain the guys who turned into cats?" He challenged me.

"How can they not?" I was clearly in denial. But I am not going to admit it out loud.

"You are seriously making this conversation more complicated." His face palmed before looking at me. "I'm just gonna let them explain this by themselves later. For now, I'm just glad that you're safe and still yourself."

"Wooo to the hoodoo." I cheered unenthusiastically.

Nate's expression suddenly turned serious. "Rose, can I ask you something?"

"Nope."

"Why did you leave?" He asked even though I just told him no.

“I said no.”

“Please, Rose. Tell me.”

I pursed my lips when I saw that Nate’s eyes had softened into a pleading one. He looked so sorry at that moment that I couldn’t help but answer him. “It’s not that I hate you guys or anything. I just wanted to go home. When I found out that there might be an alternative way for me to go back....I just have to grab it. The only problem was that it was in the Kingdom of Tereau and- ”

“Wait what did you just say? The Kingdom of Tereau?” Nate had a shocked expression on his face that I couldn’t help but wonder.

“Yeah. What about it?”

Nate suddenly grabbed me by the shoulder and looked me in the eye. “Rose, don’t you ever attempt to go there again. Do you understand?”

I gave him a puzzled look. “Why, Nate? What about it?”

“It’s a dangerous place. It’s the kingdom where most of the rogues gather. If they saw you, they wouldn’t hesitate to kill you on the spot. They are an enemy to the Kingdom, Rose. Promise me you won’t go there.”

“But what about-”

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“Promise me.” He said again. His eyes turned hard and serious and his hold on my shoulder tightened. I looked down as I thought about my decision. When I finally decided, I turned to Nate once again.

“Okay. I promise.” I said. “Sorry about running away. I didn’t know.”

Nate started to relax after that. He smiled and then pulled me into a quick embrace, kissed my forehead, and patted my head. “That’s my girl.” He said before he settled back in his seat.

I wiped the kiss-off of my forehead furiously. I glared at him.

That earned a light chuckle from Nate. While I was busy glaring at him, I heard the door open and the other princes came in.

Fred came in first followed by Ren, Dan, and lastly Ace.

“Hey, Prince Nate. Is our Princess awake?” Dan asked. Nate only nodded at him and moved a little so they could see me. When I was in full view, Dan and Ren whooped in glee.

“Welcome home, Princess.” Fred smiled at me.

Home.

I smiled weakly at him. Fred stared at my face for a bit longer before approaching me. Once he was standing at my side, he tucked some of my hair behind my ears before he held my chin and turned it to the side. Once he did, he gently ran his thumb to my bruise. I flinched. Not from his touch but from the pain I felt on my cheek.

“Beast men can hit it hard.” He mumbled. “Rose, does it still hurt?” He asked. I gave him a look as I slowly nodded.

Besides Fred, Nate let out an annoyed grumble.

“If you’re gonna heal her then do it already.”

Fred only gave him a grin before he returned his gaze to me. “This’ll be quick. Trust me.” He said and placed a hand on my bruised cheek.

“Fred what are you-”

“Shhhh.” He shushed me and started to close his eyes in concentration for who knows what. I felt a cooling sensation where his hand touched my skin. It lasted for only a few seconds before it was gone.

Fred then took his hand from my face and opened his eyes. He looked at my cheek before a smile made its way to his lips. He met my gaze. “How’s that?”

I gave him a questioning look before I touched my cheek. The pain was gone. I tried pressing it but I couldn’t feel a thing. “It’s....gone. The pain is gone.” I looked at Fred for an answer but he just smiled at me and straightened his posture. “How is it gone?”

“Tch!” Ace let out an annoyed tone making us all look at him at the same time. He was giving me a look. Once our eyes met, he wrinkled his nose at me in disgust. In return, I glared at him.

“What are you looking at?” I said to him.

“Nothing. I just can’t believe that an idiot like you exists. It’s quite fascinating.” He said in a bored tone as he continued to stare at me.

Honestly, I am so amazed at how Ace’s words can quickly change my mood.

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“Keep staring at me as that and I will honestly rip your eyeballs out of their sockets you-” And that’s when I notice the difference in his appearance. His ears, which were smooth and human-looking before, are now replaced by pointed ones. “Y-your ears...” I said and pointed at them.

Ace’s eyes suddenly narrowed. “What about them?”

I was still staring at his ears that I had to gulp before I could speak. “You look like an elf,” I said dumbly, earning an eye roll from Ace.

“That’s because I am one.” He reminded me. He let out a sigh as he ran a hand through his hair. Normally, it would hide his ears, but now it made his ears stick out more.

“Haven’t you been listening to the things he had said to you before your little ‘run away’ spree?” He let out an annoyed sigh as I mumbled, “Blockhead.”

“Well, I’m sorry if my brain wouldn’t register that kind of information. I mean, where I’m from it’s not normal!”

Ace, leaning on the wall, fixed his posture until he was standing straight. “I think you’ve already seen enough for your brain to register that what you call not normal is, in fact, possible. You’re just in a state of denial.”

“Well, I’m sorry if I don’t live in your world that it is so hard for me to believe!” I finally snapped at him. “You know what? I don’t even get why you’re in here. Did you come here to mock me? Whatever the reason you’re here, I’m pretty sure that ‘worrying about me’ is off your list. So why don’t you just go back to your library and read a book like the little royal loner you are?”

There was an awkward silence in the room as all the princes turned their attention from me to Ace.

Ace’s eyebrow twitched a little before he snorted. “As if I wanted to be here anyway.”

“Same here,” I answered.

He straightened his shirt down before he made his way to the door and disappeared. As soon as the door closed behind him, silence once again filled the room.

I snorted, breaking the awkward silence in the room. “I wonder why he even came here in the first place.” At my words, the princes looked at each other. It was like they were communicating with their eyes or something.

Finally, Ren spoke. “Hey, Rose? Do you know how Dan and I found you in the forest?”

“What are you talking about?” I tilted my head to the side.

“The wolves, Rose. We’re the wolves that you saw,” said Ren and pointed at Dan and himself. I looked from Ren to Dan, then I averted my eyes.

I’m gonna be honest here, as hard as it is for me to say it, Ace is right. Part of believes all the crap that they are talking about, the other half is...well...afraid. I have already seen it with my very own eyes. A man turning into a cat right in front of me.

Tell me, what more proof do I need?

But the idea that a world where supernaturals exist... sounds so wrong on so many different levels that my brain doesn’t want to accept it.

I felt a slight movement to my right and I turned to see that Fred had invaded my space and sat at the side of my bed. He held my hand in his and gave me a look. “You believe us, don’t you?” The way that his eyes captivated mine felt like he was s***ing the truth out of me that my lips started to shiver.

Instead of answering him, I bit my lips and nodded. I felt the tears starting to burst from my eyes that I had to shut them tight. Fred must have sensed this for he pulled me in an embrace and placed a hand on my back in a soothing way. I didn’t say anything as I sobbed quietly. “Shh. It’s alright, Rose. Everything is alright. We’re here.”

“I already know the truth,” I admitted. “But accepting it would mean that I really can’t be with my family for a while. I never ask to be here. I didn’t want to be here!” I sobbed.

Everything was quiet. No one spoke. Only the sound of my hushed sobbed can be heard.

Chapter 30 Misjudgement

My head is still resting on Fred’s chest as I clutch his shirt like a baby. I opened my eyes and saw everyone had taken a different position. Nate was now leaning on to a wall while looking at the scenery outside of the window, Ren was also leaning to the wall in front of me and playing at the petals of a flower on one of the flower vases, and Dan was sitting on a chair and rocking it back and forth.

Fred started to stroke my hair. He was looking at me with a smirk. “Did my charms work?”

It took me about a minute to realize what he had just said. Once I realized it, I gave him a frown and smacked him at the chest. “Ow!” He said and feigned hurt. “I take that as a no.” I rolled my eyes at him and sat up.

My cheeks flushed in embarra**ment. Did I just cry? “Sorry,” I said quietly.

As I lifted my head, I caught Nate's eyes and he smiled. "You don't have to be sorry. We understand what you're going through." He said and his eyes had gone soft. He stood up straighter as he faced me. "But you should always remember that you're safe here."

"We'll protect you as long as you're here," Ren added, making me switch him. "All of us will."

"Same goes for Ace." Inserted Dan, making me give him a confused look. Once he saw my face, he sighed. "When you are cloaked it conceals your presence and smell. Our noses and even Fred's magic can't track you down at the time so we decided to split up and look for you. You have no idea how many towns we went to just to look for you. It took us hours and it was driving us all crazy."

"Excuse me. Cloaked?" I was confused.

The princes stared at me. "Didn't you cloak yourself?"

"No...?" I said. Uncertain of what they were talking about.

"The red hood?" Nate suggested.

"What about it? Is it expensive? Because I kind of threw it at a nosey deer."

There was a moment of silence.

"Pfft!" Fred snickered beside me and looked away to cover his laugh with his fist. Nate simply did the same while shaking his head. The twins sat there looking dumbfounded.

Suddenly, Ren straightened up. "Hold on. So you mean to say that you had no idea that the cloak can hide your presence?"

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"It can!?" Suddenly I was interested. Then I cursed. "Damn it. And I threw it at a deer. Lucky deer."

"Why did you even think of wearing it?"

"I thought it was pretty. And it kept me warm."

Ren facepalmed. "What sheer luck." Then he collapsed on the floor.

Dan was laughing. "Humans are so mysterious. Lucky for us that Ace was around."

I tilted my head to the side. "That guy helped?"

Dan held out a hand to shush me. "Let me finish." He said. "As I was saying, we couldn't find you anywhere. But Ace...he somehow found a way to find you."

"He did?" I asked. Are we even talking about the same PRINCE?

Dan thought about it for a moment. When he couldn't find the right words to say, he looked at Fred for help. Fred nodded at him as he continued Dan's explanation. "Have you noticed the change in PRINCE Ace's appearance?"

I looked back at how different Ace had looked before he left the room and nodded. "Yeah. His ears changed. It became longer and sharper."

Fred nodded at my observation. "Yes. That is the regular appearances of the Elven folks."

Okay. I'm a bit lost here. "Wait," I said. "If that was the regular 'Elven' look, then didn't his ears look that way when I first saw him?"

Fred gave me a small smile. "When the ears of an elf become smaller to the point where it resembles a regular ear, it means that his/her powers are dying. You see, an elf can get rid of their powers by not using it for 10 years. By the looks of things, it seems as if Ace hadn't used his for 9 years now."

"Killing their power? Are you telling me that Ace was trying to kill his powers?" Fred nodded.

I frowned. "Why?"

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Fred shook his head. "I can't answer that because I don't understand the reason behind it either." He admitted. "But I have a feeling that his powers have something to do with locating you."

"Ace disappeared on us for a few minutes and when he came back he had information with regards to your whereabouts. And with that information comes with the return of his powers." Added Ren, who was now crossing his arms over his broad chest as he leaned against the wall. His brown hair covering his eyes as he looked to the side as if he was in deep thought. "After that, he made us – Dan and I – open our alpha link to him. But something about it seems strange." He then looked at his brother.

Dan nodded in agreement to Ren. "Now that you said it, the image that we got from Ace was pretty clear. It was a top view of the forest. It was like we were flying – no – it was like we were seeing through the eyes of a hawk?" Dan looked at Ren. Ren only shook his head and shrugged.

“That’s odd.” I felt my bed move as Fred shifted his position. He was holding his chin in deep thoughts. “I don’t think that there’s Elven magic that can do that. What do you think, Prince Nate?”

Nate shook his head in dismay. “I don’t know of that either. I haven’t heard an elf possessing that kind of magic. The usual magic that they have is elemental. I heard the Elven royalty inherit unique gifts from their ancestors, but Ace’s magic must be old since I haven’t heard or read about it.”

“Do you think he was a warlock or something?” Dan offered. Ren hit the back of his brother’s head. “He’s an Elf, you idiot.”

“True,” Fred said. “That was no warlock magic. And PRINCE Ace is a pure-blooded elf. Their line has no hint of other supernatural.”

The princes were in deep thought as they tried to figure out Ace’s magic. But for me, I only need to know one thing that keeps on bothering me since this topic was brought. “Hang on for a second,” I said, catching all of their attention. Feeling four sets of eyes on me, I took a deep breath. “Are you guys telling me that, because of Ace, PRINCE Ace, the royal pain in the b***, was the reason that you guys found me?”

“And informing us ahead of time that you were about to bump into some rogues? Yes.” Dan said flatly.

My body felt cold as I looked at the other princes for confirmation. I was hoping that they would say no, but all my hopes vanished when they all nodded at once.

I felt my blood had gone from my face. Was Ace that considerate as to sacrifice his years to kill his powers – well at least according to Prince Fred – to locate me? Ace? Does he have a heart?

I suddenly felt guilty. I owe Ace a lot. He was the main reason that they found me. The reason I didn’t become a cat food for two werecats. And after all that he did, I have been a jerk to him. Asked him to leave the room and called him a loner and – maybe – embarra**ed him in front of the other princes? Crap, I was such a b*tch to him.

There must have been something on my face because Nate suddenly snapped his fingers in front of me. “Are you okay, love? You look pale.”

“I have to look for Ace and apologize!” I suddenly blurted out as I got out of my bed so sudden that Fred almost fell to the ground when I pulled the sheets off.

“Where are you going?” Ren asked.

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"To the place where Ace might be. The library!" I called out to them as I ran towards the door and got out of the room. I was running barefooted, but I didn't care. The floor was pretty clean after all. And I can't just wait it out. One thing that I learned from my mom was that if you're in the wrong, apologize immediately and don't wait it out. Sometimes, it's best to lower your pride a little.

That guy better is in the library or else.

I was so lost in thought as I was thinking of ways on how to apologize that I bump into something. Luckily, it wasn't that hard. "Sorry." I quickly said. I didn't have any time to move when the person in front of me pulled me in an embrace.

"I was so worried! Don't ever run away like that again!" The queen said as she gave me a bone-crushing hug. Despite being all skinny, she was pretty strong that I had to use all my energy to pull away from her.

"Um excuse me but I'm kind of in a hurry and-" I started to say but was immediately cut off.

"Why'd you run away?" She said and held me by the shoulder and looked at me with sad eyes. "Do you know what kind of trouble you would have been to if they hadn't found you?"

Her eyes were full of hurt that I had to look down. "Sorry. I just wanna go home." I told her. "But I guess you already know that."

Elizabeth, the queen, bit her lips as she looked at me with guilt. "I'm sorry." She said and started to drop her hand from my shoulders. "I know I have been wrong but please, don't go to the Kingdom of Terra. Just wait it out and the orb will fully charge."

"And then what?"

"And then you can use its powers to go home."

I bit my lips as I looked at her. "Is there no other way?" She shook her head. Going to the King of Tereau is not an option either. But what about my family and friends in the other world? Well, I guess they just have to wait. I sighed. "Okay. I understand. But promise me that when it charges, you will help me go back."

The queen only nodded at me. "I promise. Just don't run off like that again. I will give you anything. Heck, you can even cancel the ball and everything." She said.

A ball? What the heck is that?! Never mind. I have to go and look for Ace first.

"I'll think about it. Right now, I have to go to the library." I quickly said as I ran past her.

