

A. Nocturne's 151

Chapter 151 Shipping Convicts

The wind howled through the mountain passes as the ominous storm clouds scudded overhead, the threat of them dumping their heavy load over the convoy below was ever-present as the guards walked in silence at the side of their dangerous cargo.

Each one of them knew the dire threat that they had been charged with keeping subdued, and they were acutely aware of the fate that awaited them if anything went wrong.

The Iron cage rattled over stones and boulders as the heavy guard scanned the dangerous terrain all around them as if expecting a threat to appear at any second.

The Elders of the Royal Enclave had wasted no time in preparing and shipping these convicts off to their final destination.

As soon as the verdicts had been announced, the two female figures, one unrepentant and defiant, the other sobbing and defeated as she clutched her swollen belly protectively, had been

Chapter 152 The Most Dangerous Opponent

The ground beneath them seemed to erupt as vile, twisted creatures emerged as far as the eye could see, bringing with them a stench that was so overpowering a multitude of hands flew upwards to cover their faces with the masks of their attire as they gagged violently.

The rotting flesh of the gargantuan beast that seemed to detach itself from the mountainside rippled disgustingly as it lumbered towards them, vile fluids oozing from the open sores and dripping down onto the ma*s*s of creatures swarming below it.

The entire convoy seemed to freeze momentarily in pure, unadulterated terror as the scene that looked as though it had been ripped straight from a horror movie unfolded before them.

In seconds, the Enclave's guards sprung into action. Those that couldn't shift readied their weapons and offensive magick as the sound of breaking bones whilst the shifters change

Chapter 153 You Remind Me of Your Mother

Ann and Adam stood side by side on the balcony, waving down to the crowds that had gathered below. The noise from the crowd was almost deafening. It almost seemed as though they were fighting with one another over whose voice could shout the loudest and reach the newly crowned Alpha Queen's ears first. Adam chuckled softly.

"All this is for you, my Queen." He murmured as he took her hand and brought her fingers to his lips, kissing it gently.

Ann giggled lightly, her nerves getting the better of her as loud cheers echoed through the air.

"Don't get me wrong, I'm grateful for their excitement and the more than warm welcome, but I've done nothing to prove myself to them yet." She replied with a worried smile.

"Is that really what you think?" Adam murmured quietly, "Ann, take a step back and think about it for a second. These past few months have thrown so much a

Chapter 154 Emergency

The hum of chatter faded as soon as the Steward announced their arrival and every person in attendance stood and turned to watch the newly instated royal couple with interest.

Ann took a deep breath to steady her nerves as unobtrusively as she could. She f*orc*ed a demure smile on her face as she and Adam made their way toward their seats and tried desperately to ignore the countless judgmental eyes now focused solely on her.

The Royal Table sat at the far back of the room, elevated slightly above the others on a beautifully sculpted dais. Two ornate chairs, crafted in Silver and decorated expertly with reliefs of the Moon Goddess and her first children sculpted into the metalwork, sat central to the table, flanked on either side by additional chairs for the most senior of the Royal Enclave.

As Ann and Adam passed the many faces of the wide array of dignitaries a*s*ssembled in the banq

Chapter 155 This Did Not Bode Well at All

Ann and Adam followed the senior Elder in front of them, with the Enclave guard contained on all sides by the Royal guard as they made their way to one of the private rooms available.

“I’m terribly sorry for this outrageous intrusion, my Queen. He should have been stopped by the guards before he ever got this far...” The senior Elder grumbled.

He had briefly introduced himself as Bartholomew, one of the Senior Elders that oversaw the Enclave, before offering to escort them to a private room to receive whatever news it was that the man had brought.

“It’s not a problem, Bartholomew. If it is as important as I think it may be, then the sooner we hear what he has to say, the better.”

Bartholomew turned to look at her with an unreadable expression in his eyes, and she didn’t miss the curious look that Adam gave her either.

“Do you know what he’s here for,

Chapter 156 The 12th Garrison

“The 12th Garrison?” Adam asked, his expression one of deep thought, “How were you alerted to the convoy’s demise?”

“Generally we track the progress from the 11th garrison at the receiving end through the Ravine with spotters from our garrison. We hadn’t heard from the spotters for longer than was normal, and had begun to mobilize a search party.” Greyson explained calmly, “They were about to leave when a group of Aurochs, that we know are used for transport there, entered the bottom of the valley in a panicked state.”

Adam nodded thoughtfully as Greyson explained, scrutinizing his face subtly and checking for any trace of dishonesty.

“As soon as the lookout at the Garrison reported it, we mobilized a f*orc*e to intercept and conduct reconnaissance in the area. We knew that it meant nothing good as there was no trace of the guards or the convoy that they were supposed to be at

Chapter 157 The Best Person to Ask

The air positively hummed as her aura rippled through the room and the people within dropped to their knees in front of her, including those that had done no wrong.

Ann felt a pang of guilt but did her best to brush it away.

It was less than ideal, but if it was spoken of outside of this room, then it would be widely known that Ann was no pushover, and would happily act before the Elders got a chance to do so.

Perhaps Maeve was right and more direct action was necessary. Her father had been a weak ruler in later years and perhaps he had allowed them a little too much freedom in dictating how things were run.

The Enclave was an ancient institution that protected the Kingdom from tyrant rulers. They were never meant to make the decisions for the Kings and Queens, merely to ensure that justice was upheld and that the Royal line did not abuse its power to the detriment

Chapter 158 Not a Social Call

Ann and Adam made their way back to their quarters under the escort of the Royal guards and once inside, Ann gratefully closed the door behind her.

It was glaringly obvious that they wouldn't be able to return to the palace anytime soon, so Adam set about making arrangements to have some of their personal effects sent over whilst Ann got herself changed out of the ceremonial attire and into something a little more comfortable.

She wasn't sure that leggings and an oversized T-shirt were what constituted acceptable attire for a reigning Alpha Queen, but she was past caring at this point. She just wanted to be comfortable and free of distractions so that she could think clearly.

She settled herself on the edge of the bed and sent a quick message to Mimi, requesting a few items of clothing that she knew she was lacking for official functions, diplomatic liaisons, and possibly for

Chapter 159 Only with You, My Alpha

The next morning with the haze of sleep still sitting over her, Ann had briefly forgotten the events of the night before as she stretched languidly under the cloud-like duvet that enveloped her completely.

As the reality of her situation intruded rudely on her blissfully unaware state, she groaned and threw the covers off, before carefully extracting herself from under Adam's arm that had been lazily thrown across her stomach. "Leaving me so soon?" Adam murmured, his voice still thick with sleep.

"There's too much waiting for us, my Alpha." Ann chuckled as his eyes opened wide suddenly and darkened as he gazed at her half-naked form perched on the edge of the bed.

“There’s always time to squeeze in a little...” Adam protested playfully as he lunged to catch hold of her and pull her back into the bed, but Ann cut him off with a laugh.

“Little? Adam, you know as well

Chapter 160 Any Progress?

Coral guided them to the dining hall under the escort of the royal guard and as they entered the hall, everyone that had been seated stood instantly and bowed their heads in their direction.

“I’m not gonna lie, I kind of miss having a quiet breakfast without the audience already,” Ann murmured to Adam, who chuckled in response.

Ann motioned for them to sit as she took her seat and the breakfast dishes were brought out.

“Goddess, is it going to be like this everytime we eat?” Ann frowned as she watched plate after plate of dishes being unloaded onto the table in front of them.

“I mean, at least we know you’ll never be short of choice.” Adam chuckled.

The seating arrangements were the same at the Royal Table as they had been the night before and Ann found herself seated next to Bartholomew once more.

She had already spotted Greyson and a few other faces she didn’t