

Chosen 111

Chapter One Hundred Eleven

In the end, Cole hadn't been able to weasel his way out of the girl's request. He still didn't know why she was constantly need of him. He wasn't complaining, but he could tell something was bothering her and she didn't want to say anything. In fact, this was the exact way it had been before she'd woken up from her comma. After an hour of constantly pondering, he'd fallen asleep with her in his arms... 'Not the way I pictured my first night with my mate...' was his last thought before succumbing to the strong forces of sleep.

He was also the first to wake up... He got out of the bed and took a shower while she slept. Once he was done and back in his clothes, he walked back into the room. He watched her scrunch her nose... Stirring from deep sleep... Her sense of smell was remarkable, he mused remembering the distance she had tracked Kyle from. In the end, they hadn't been able to keep him from escaping...

The Rogue King had pulled many strings to achieve that feat. Considering the body count of rogues numbered 562 when the hunters were done counting. The rest had escaped during the commotion... 'Just how many rogues are out there...'

The sound of a yawn reached his ears and snapped him out of his thoughts, "Someone finally woke up," he commented. Katie looked between him and the spot on the bed where she'd expected to find him in the morning before shrugging.

"Good morning, Cole," she said.

"Good morning, beautiful," he replied, walking over to her. He took her hands into his, "Now are you going to tell me what's going on with you?"

"Oh... part of it was a demand from my wolf. She's less bound by morals than I am... The right, however, should be naughty. The other part, however..." she bit her lip, not wanting to let out the information.

"What is it? Tell me, Katie," he coaxed her.

"I was afraid... Afraid to get back into that comma. I can't figure out what I keep trying to remember. I saw something, Cole. I don't know what it was, but without you holding me, it threatens to pull me back into that state I was in. I don't want that to happen to me," the confession was scarier than the Royal had hoped it would be.

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"Didn't you see the Rogue king?" he asked, trying to keep himself calm. He didn't want to feel as helpless as he had before. Seeing her fighting for her life was not something he could handle twice.

"That's not it... This feels worse..." she replied, staring him in the eye.

"Someone woke up nicely," the voice of the doctor reached them, "How are we feeling today?"

"Good morning, Doctor Steven. I am feeling fine," she replied, taking her eyes off Cole and flashing the doctor a smile.

“That’s wonderful... Can you try to stand up then? I want to see how we are doing,” the doctor said to her...

Anticipation filled her when she heard the doctor mention getting on her feet again. Without wasting any more time, she swung her legs to the side of the bed and slowly attempted to stand. Cole reached out to help her, but she held her hand up to stop him. Placing her feet on the ground, she got up and stood straight doing her best to do it slowly just in case she was going to damage her tissues anymore, “See there is nothing to worry about...” she smiled at Cole. The royal smiled back at her...

“Try walking about, Katie. Not too fast though. You don’t want to make it worse in case the healing is not yet done,” the doctor ordered.

She nodded and focused on taking a step forward, putting energy into her right leg. However, the limb remained immovable. She strained a bit more and finally moved her leg... straining under the weight of her body, her left leg gave out and she found herself tumbling. Cole was in time to catch her from hitting the ground. She held onto the royal and let out a scream when her hands screamed upon holding onto him.

Cole quickly noticed and lifted her up so that she didn’t need to strain her arms as well, “Doctor, what’s the meaning of this?” the royal yelled at the man.

“I’m not sure. Considering the speed at which she healed yesterday, I was under the impression that she would have healed from the internal injuries as well,” he replied, raising his voice to match the royal. Cole realised he’d yelled and brought his voice down.

“What if there are fragments of metal from the arrows still left inside her?” he asked the man.

“That’s not possible. We made sure to clean those out immediately we were told about how she was injured. There is nothing left. I can guarantee that...” he assured the royal.

“Cole, I know this man. He speaks the truth. Besides, if there was metal inside, it would be constantly throbbing. There is nothing of the sort as long as I don’t strain my legs or arms,” she calmed the man.

“Then what could be the problem, Katie. He says you should be fine. I saw your wounds heal yesterday, why aren’t you standing now?” he asked, his voice going high once more...

“If I may give a suggestion... The pain in your limbs... It might be in your mind. Your condition was unique,” he said to both of them.

“How is that supposed to be cured then? I don’t remember a hunter ever having a trauma,” she said to him.

“With all due respect Katie, you are now a werewolf. And werewolves feel emotions more intensely than humans. I don’t know how to help you rather say that you should try to get onto your feet at least twice every day and work your way out of the trauma,” he tried.

“How long...” Katie asked. The man remained silent after being asked, frozen by the fear of what he’d observed. He couldn’t say what he thought after he’d just mentioned how sensitive werewolves were. Besides, if he mentioned the time he’d deduced, she was probably bound to increase the time if she felt

hopeless. When getting out of trauma, she needed all the positive energy she could get, "I asked how long, Steven."

"That all depends on you... I did mention a trauma. If handled properly, you could be fine within two weeks (a large stretch from the two months the doctor initially deduced), but if you handled it poorly, it could take you up to two months. The most important thing is to keep positive and try every day to get past it," he explained to her.

Ashley was listening closely during the conversation and noted the doctor's heartbeat. He'd been lying the entire time and when he said the last part of the sentence, he felt better about himself. She didn't have to translate anything to the hunter that had learnt to torture rogues from within the dungeon at the Hunter's Agency. "So it's two months minimum, huh..."

"Yeah... I'm really sorry Katie," the man said, avoiding eye contact.

"You have nothing to apologize for... How the hell will I be getting about without my legs?" she groaned. Eating alone was bound to be a problem if she could figure out a way to use her hands. Quickly testing with the television remote that lay beside her bed, she found that she could at least lift it without causing pain to flare through her arms. "At least I'll be able to eat..."

Cole whined childishly, "I was going to offer to feed you... Get you back for being a cushion yesterday."

"Oh, is that so... Well, too bad... All you get to do is push my wheelchair," she stuck her tongue out at him. Getting a push from his wolf, the man managed to smile, masking the deep sadness he had inside. He mentally thanked his wolf... Katie required more positivity if she was going to get better and he was going to be the first source of it...

Just then, the door burst open... A girl dressed in the large coat that they all knew clearly belonged to the Mighty hunter strode in urgently. "Tiny sister, you don't have to rush in like that. You'll give her a fright..."

Lina stopped halfway through the room to turn back to her brother, "When did I get demoted to 'tiny'?" she huffed.

"Well, I'm not lying when I say that. You are tinier than your older sister. So it only seems fit or do you want me to switch? There are a lot of other words... Small, minuscule, microscopic..."

"Oh, I like that one... Germ-like," Katie interjected, stopping her brother in his revision of the thesaurus. The man laughed at her sense of humour.

"No, you return to little sister... Maybe you could call Katie 'middle sister' or 'scary sister.' She is the one that has the title of rogue Killer..." she pointed out.

"That's enough of your childish banter. Have you already forgotten the purpose of coming here so early in the morning?" another voice intervened.

"Oh, calm down Mr Gordon. It doesn't hurt to lighten the mood before presenting something as ominous as what you had us bring her," Drake groaned.

"What are you guys talking about?" Katie asked.

Lina went quiet for a moment, reaching into the large coat and producing what happened to be... Four steel arrows. They reeked of wolfsbane and bore dried blood from their victim the night before. To Katie, they were the last missing pieces to the memory block she was having, "May I have those?" she asked her sister, her voice drained of any more signs of happiness.

Lina gave her the arrows, stepping back afterwards. Apparitions continued to plague Katie's mind, constantly throwing her back to that... pushing against her mental blocks to see past the image of the Rogue King. Katie had seen something else that night... and the sight of these arrows forced her to remember...

All at once, the girl made a fist, snapping the steel arrows in half out of rage, "Katie, what is it?" Cole asked, reaching out to her. His touch did not help to ease her anger. He could tell from the look on her face that she'd finally remembered whatever it was that she dreaded and it pissed her off more than the Rogue King himself.

"I'll kill that traitor..." she said almost inaudibly.

"You mean Kyle... You're forgetting that we need him alive so that..."

"Not him... I don't give a damn about Kyle..." she stopped Cole short, her mind projecting the last remaining images that she'd seen before passing out. Clear as day as seen through the vision of a wolf in the night, Katie had managed to see something far more dreadful and it made Cole boil with anger as well. She'd seen the face of the archer... hidden within the trees, standing a safe distance from the clearing and well-hidden was the undeniable image of Jeremiah...

112 Chapter One Hundred Twelve

Katie sat in the electric wheelchair that had been commissioned for her and let her mind wander. Driving it around the Lycaon suite didn't feel like an ideal way to take a walk... and so she just let her mind soar while she sat at the balcony letting the cold wind blow through her hair and cooling her nerves. It had been a week since the attack from the rogues and many adjustments had been made since then.

Claire, the director's wife had woken up after five days in the hospital and the man had sworn to make tighten the security of Brigadia. The professional hunters were back in the field, realising now that the Rogue Killer was out of action, they had to pick up the slack somehow. The events of that day seemed to have caused far more damage than Katie would have liked, but there was nothing she could do from the wheelchair she was now imprisoned too.

"Katie," a male voice called to her, soothing the somewhat dark thoughts that plagued her mind. He was the only person capable of taking them away and she was grateful for his presence. However, the fact that they were leaving Brigadia in the state it was broke her heart.

"Out here," she called back to him.

After a few moments, his scent wrapped around her along with his arms around her shoulders. The man placed a gentle kiss on his beautiful mate, before rushing back into the room and returning with a sheet to cover her with, "You'll freeze out here," he said to her.

“You know I’m made of much tougher stuff than that Cole. A little cold can’t hurt me,” Katie returned. Sweat covered the royal and even had his skin-tight shirt drenched. It was only now that the female questioned the hug she’d only received earlier, “Someone’s getting serious with the workouts.”

“I’ve always been... You’ll find that I can be intense when it comes to keeping in shape,” he boasted, puffing out his chest with pride and adding a bit of the dramatic flair that brought a smile to his mate’s face.

“That sounds like fun... Don’t use that same kind of intensity on me when I get out of this thing,” she commented cringing at the over-exaggerated images Ashley was cooking up in her head. Most of them, however, were aimed at making Cole look comically handsome.

“Will you join me in the...”

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“Yes, please...” she replied before he was done. This was partly because of what happened on the first day she’d tried to get everything done by herself. There were two things that made using the bathroom facilities impossible on her own. One was the pain from her muscles and the second was the wolf that constantly bothered her on missing an opportunity to spend time with Cole with less clothing. Sophisticated as Ashley might have been at times, she was completely at the mercy of the royal.

To that day, Katie had no idea if that was a good or bad thing, for it seemed Cole would do anything for her just as well. “That was a quick answer...”

“Sometimes I think you just ask me that to patronize me...” she groaned, tapping at the joystick of her wheelchair to get her back into the room. She’d grown accustomed to the device already and found that it got her everywhere she wanted to go appropriately. Nevertheless, she was helpless for as long as she was in the wheelchair and it scared her to the bone.

“When are we wanted in the lobby?” Katie asked him, dreading the moment they’d have to get into that air jet to leave the place.

“Well, we are royalty. I say they’ll be the ones to wait for us,” Cole said, trying to hide the fact that he was trying to prolong the time in the shower, “You know... You have a lot of packing (which they had completed the day before...), preparation, dressing. You have to pick the right outfit and look perfect...” he would have continued if she hadn’t stopped him.

“Oh, keep going, mister. How long are you going to say all that will take?” she chuckled at his attempts.

“Well,” he stepped back into the suite from the balcony, looking up as though the math was difficult, “That depends... You have a large wardrobe of clothes that Sandra helped you stock up on. The suitcases are a mess,” at this point, he’d picked the girl up from the wheelchair and was placing light kisses on her lips, “I would say a few hours... Five hours give or take one hundred...”

Katie couldn’t help but laugh at his silliness. This is how he’d become after that day. He spent every moment of his time that he could spare dotting on the girl and trying his best to make her forget the state she was in. He appreciated the hard work and welcomed the heavy pampering with open arms.

As far as the progress went, she was now able to stand with a lot of effort and hold the position for a few minutes before she needed to sit back down. A great improvement compared to the complete inability to stand that she had when they'd just started.

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Davin Sirius groaned for what might have been his hundredth time this morning... The family sat in the lobby laughing at his impatience. They had dressed up and gotten ready for the long trip, but the couple that they waited for was making it a point to take their sweet time, "Those two will send me to my grave before my time is due," the man commented as he sunk even deeper into the leather sofa.

"Honey, you're going to ruin that suit," Martha tried to warn the man.

"Today seems to be a day to try out new things, my love. I have never been delayed this much in my life. The least I could do is take it all out on the suit," the man said. As usual, he'd donned on one of his expensive white suits for something as small as travel and was now regretting the decision, mainly because of the boredom he was being forced to endure.

"Oh, dear... I don't think I've ever seen you like this, Father," Drake spoke up, holding in his laughter as he watched the man some more.

"And I have never been subjected to this much waiting... I don't even know how..." he stopped complaining after craning his neck to see his children's eyes glued to the screen of a tablet with earphones in one ear each, "Oh, that makes sense... Is that..."

"Yes, Dad. Another episode of my favourite show. They began releasing the new season today and I got my hands on one of the first releases..." Lina said to him, trying to shut him up so that she could watch the show.

"Didn't you get that guy's number that one time when he came into Sirius?" the man asked, remembering one of the first humans he'd ever wanted to kick in his life.

"Yes, that was him," she replied, "I got his number... or more like he asked for us to switch and he's been sending episodes the moment they are released. It's nice to be favoured."

"Yeah and you have been favoured quite a lot for one lifetime," Martha said, through her teeth.

"It's not bad to look this beautiful, mum. Besides, you should be proud. I got my looks from a beautiful Luna," the girl cooed, making her mum falter for a moment, swayed by the compliment.

"Yes, you did get the looks from me. And like me, you should only find pleasure when your mate appreciates them," she said.

"I've heard the lecture a few times now, mum," she flipped her off before turning her attention back to the screen.

Just then, the door of the lobby opened and a girl came pulling a rolling suitcase. She rolled her eyes when the sound of a woman called out to her, "And you're sure you got your scarves... All seven of them. It's cold in Sirius this time of the year, you know," the woman said.

“Yes, mother. Would you stop triple checking everything already? We already went through these things yesterday,” she said.

“Honey, you know she will be fine,” a man spoke. The woman came in only a moment later carrying a handbag and in her hands, a pen and a notepad.

“Oh, you don’t know anything about Sirius honey. Stick to the side of the continent where you came from,” the woman argued before moving on to the next item on her list, “What about beanie hats? I remember you distinctly owning a number of them,” she said, twirling the pen in her hands.

Sandra stopped walking to look at her mother. Atop the head of the teenager was a bright yellow beanie that screamed ‘This is not where I belong!’ The man who they’d only talked to earlier came in lugging a load that surely wasn’t meant to be carried by a human. A large rucksack and two more bags along with another suitcase that... for some reason wasn’t given to the wife to pull.

“That’s one hell of a load of luggage you’ve got there, Scary sister’s mentee,” Drake said. The rest of the room looked at him, plunging the room into silence...

“What... I’m working on it...” he groaned... ‘Does he really need a title for everyone?’ was the thought that went through most of the people that were present at the time...

113 Chapter One Hundred Thirteen

The two parents finally went still when they noticed the colour of eyes that had the entire lobby vacated. Yes, there was fear for the Royals and when most of the inhabitants of the hotel had realised they were going to be in the lobby for a while, they’d all found their way out to escape the pressure of the oppressing power they possessed.

“Oh, they are in the lobby,” Sandra’s mother spoke, her voice raised a couple of octaves in surprise.

“Well, you haven’t done so badly considering most humans realise there is a Royal around miles before they have actually met them,” Davin announced matter-of-factly.

“Oh, I see,” she replied. It wasn’t a secret to anyone in the room that the woman was uncomfortable in their presence. It was only a reflex for someone who grew up knowing their history would go through.

“Oh, relax a little. I had scones made for your arrival. What’s your name?” Martha said, presenting the woman with a tray filled with an assortment of confectionaries. Lina paused the show on the tablet and looked between her mother’s seat and her current location. ‘It’s like magic,’ she thought to herself.

Martha chuckled at the young girl’s reaction, never getting tired of making her do it, “My name is Martha... Martha Sirius. What’s yours?”

“Alicia... Alicia Alastair,” she replied, “That hunk of a man doing me a solid over there is Benjamin Alastair.”

“Oh my... Such beautiful names... Take a seat and relax. We probably have a long wait ahead of us before the princess feels like she’s ready to depart,” Martha said.

“Princess? Oh, you mean Katie... It’s weird to hear her being referred to as a princess. I was used to hearing her being called many things, but the latest ones are too hard to digest,” Alicia exclaimed, already forgetting about the two that she came with and drowning in the queen’s hospitality.

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“Well, I’ll just go up and check on...”

“I wouldn’t do that if I were you. Best that you let those two come on their own. I am glad that you chose to come with us. Katie will definitely need your help,” Drake said, holding his hand out for the girl to shake.

“Yeah, we are so happy that you chose to come with us,” the elevator opened to reveal two alphas dressed in casual, ready to depart as well. Jason wore his usual smirk and winked at the girl.

“Aren’t you so happy?” she laughed at the man and went to hug him.

With open arms, the alpha received her, “I thought I smelt my favourite human. Although I must as what you are wearing on your head...”

“Don’t ask, Jason. It’s courtesy of an overloving mother,” the girl groaned.

“I don’t know if I’m supposed to take that as a compliment or an insult,” Alicia yelled from her place on the sofa without sparing them a glance. At the moment, she was preoccupied with a slideshow the queen was showing her of boutiques. The two seemed to be within their element, ‘Oh, I like that one...’ one would hear from one of them.

“So this is the gentle... wolf or whatever that stole my girl’s heart,” Benjamin, Sandra’s father spoke, sizing up the boy and looking him up and down.

“Your daughter is in capable hands, sir,” Jason began.

“You too have your own agenda. Jason and I are very good friends and that’s all I want to hear from the two of you,” Sandra said, leaning against the alpha with the widest smile she could muster.

“Ouch, sweetie... That hurts my feelings,” Jason mocked hurt.

“Oh, stop goofing off... My father doesn’t know how to make a joke,” she smacked the werewolf at the back of his head.

“Ouch, okay, okay... I will promise one thing... And that is to protect her with my very soul,” Jason had suddenly taken on a serious tone.

“That’s good to hear,” Benjamin replied. He obviously had no idea what kind of relationship was going on after the display he’d just seen, but he could tell that she was in good hands.

“Ugh, more love in the air... It’s like the world breathes it these days,” Caden groaned, pushing the trio away from the elevator, “Where are the other two lovebirds?”

“They are still up in the suite. I would think you would know considering you slept in the same suite,” King Davin spoke up, narrowing his eyes at the two.

“No, we couldn’t know a thing. Cole ordered us not to go into his room or even knock today morning,” Jason said.

“Royals are forbidden from compelling werewolves to do their bidding. So why didn’t you at least knock to know if they were there? We don’t even know if they are awake,” the King complained. His impatience stuck to his face in a permanent scowl. It was like he was going through the roughest torture out there.

“He didn’t use his alpha tone on us, but we still didn’t want to disturb him. Besides, Katie is an early riser. There is no way those are still asleep right now,” Caden explained. He wasn’t fazed by the King’s tone... something that all the Royals in the room noticed but kept to themselves.

“Scones?” the queen offered, this time gesturing to the receptionist who ordered for tea to be brought to them.

“Yeah, that would be nice. Thank you,” Caden replied, taking a seat. Everyone was finally ready for the trip. Cole’s escorts, Katie’s escort and the entire Sirius Royal family... The sound of the elevator echoed in the silence announcing the arrival of a new group of people. The last ones to enter the room. Having waited for so long, the Royals didn’t want to look to find out who it was...

The gates opened, letting the scent of the one person they’d grown fond of over the course of the week after the attack on Brigadia. The whirring sound of an electric chair reached their ears, compelling everyone to turn their eyes to the new arrival. Cole strode beside his mate, holding up two large duffel bags and making them seem weightless.

“Hey, Katie,” Sandra was the first to greet the girl reaching around her to give her a heartfelt hug.

“Hey, Carrot top,” Katie replied, chucking at her friend’s glowing head.

“You’re hugging me longer for that comment,” Sandra said, prolonging the hug with the girl while slowly pulling her off the chair...

“Oh okay. Longer hugs it... Wait, no... You can let go of me now... Sandra,” Katie panicked, whilst laughing at her friend’s disastrous attempt at humour.

“What took you guys so long? You know... I want to complain, but I am going to take the high road and act like you didn’t just make the KING OF THE SIRIUS EMPIRE wait for three hours,” Davin said, yelling at the point of announcing his title.

“It’s nice to see you up, Katie,” Martha called out to her. The Queen’s melodic voice was compelling to everyone that heard it. Katie found that her voice, however, soft seemed to soothe her no matter what situation she was in. As a result, the two were getting along quite well. Katie was finally starting to feel worth something even without her hands and legs.

For as long as she was crippled, she was never going to stop feeling the sense of hopelessness that plagued her. She couldn’t defend anyone in her state and she had everything to lose. Lina was doing her best to get the girl to enjoy watching a movie. An act that Katie loathed from the moment she realised she needed to keep up her training. Drake, on the other hand, had all sorts of ideas. He took her through the different things that she was supposed to expect from the Sirius empire.

And to top off his whole speech, he was trying to get her to join his team when they were to play the Royal games against Cole. After asking Cole about the games, Katie realised the Sirius team was actually stronger than the Lycaon team. Considering Lina had gotten a lot fast.

Sandra visited a lot and moved out with Katie telling her about everything that was happening in school. After losing her ability to walk, Katie had refused to go back to school. She couldn't meet them after the speech she'd given them about killing the rogue king. Her life was in shambles and everyone around her was doing their best to make sure she didn't let it get to her head. And every time someone approached her, she saw it in their eyes.

"Can we go now?" Davin asked, snapping Katie out of her thoughts.

"Yeah, let's go..." she replied to the king. King Davin, was probably among the kindest men she'd ever met. King Sirius had a weakness of flashy clothes and made sure he always looked his best, but from what Katie could tell, the man was very kind and lacked the ability to hide his emotions in front of his family. The King and Queen, Martha and Davin were possibly the first couple that Katie was seeing display this much love for each other. Tom and Marie had done the same, but being hunters, they could at least conceal their feelings when they had to be serious. Martha and Davin didn't mind when they showed their affection for each other and the way they were always in sync simply blew Katie away...

114 Chapter One Hundred Fourteen

The whirring sound of the private jet roared at the small airstrip it had been packed in. Katie had never had reason to come to this part of Brigadia. Being one of the most remote towns in the world, the small town had endeavoured to have a small airstrip for the important hunters that lived there. People like Anthony, Frost and Jackeline were familiar with this part of the town.

For Katie, this was merely the last part of Brigadia that she was going to be seeing. She hadn't even said goodbye to anyone in the school. Guilt weighed heavily on her heart. She didn't want to face them and everyone had told her that she didn't need to face them at all, but that was not enough to remove the feeling of guilt that weighed her down.

"If it's any consolation, I told Dexter and the others that you were being transferred," Sandra said to her. The girl could read through Katie like an open book. Most especially now that she was worse at concealing her emotions than before.

"Thank you..."

Katie let go of the joystick that controlled her electric chair and stopped several metres away from the plane. The werewolves around all had perfect hearing and noticed instantly that she'd stopped moving. "Is something wrong?" Davin asked, turning back to tend to his daughter.

"Not really... I'm just... waiting for someone," Katie replied. Not many understood how the odd ability the Chase family worked and the family was surprised to hear that she'd learnt how to use it. Unfortunately, it didn't exactly have an off button and currently, she didn't feel like she would leave just yet...

"Who might you be waiting for? I did watch you say goodbye to an entire facility of werewolf hunters. You had a birthday as a farewell party for crying out loud," the man complained.

“Honey, let’s load the plane. Maybe that will be enough time while Katie waits,” Queen Martha said, placing her hand gently on the King’s shoulder. The man instantly relaxed and gave in to her request. Cole couldn’t believe how impatient the man could be, although, after further thought on the matter, he doubted he would be so different if he was delayed beyond three hours.

“What is it, Katie?” he asked the girl. Sandra proceeded to back the plane and was soon followed by the two alphas that walked with Cole.

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“It’s the same thing I just said. I’m waiting for someone,” Katie replied. Cole looked back and sniffed the air. Maybe the air from the plane was interrupting his senses, but even his ears couldn’t pick anything. There was almost no one coming... If she was sure that someone was coming, then they were still far and the man feared to test the King’s anger much longer.

“Do you know who it is?” Cole asked.

“It’s all those that were dear to me in Brigadia,” she replied, looking to the ground. Regardless of the number of times she had spoken of waiting for someone; she didn’t turn back to the obvious direction they would have come from. She was, in a sense, still not ready to meet the one she was waiting for.

“Hey, we need to go. The plane is loaded...” Drake called out to them. The plane was ready to leave... However, Katie didn’t move an inch and continued to look at the same spot on the ground that she had been observing.

Sandra walked back out of the plane to tell her friend that they didn’t have all the time in the world. Just as she was about to reach Katie, a loud chorus of footsteps resounded through the airstrip, coming from the entrance to the runway. Those that had entered the plane came out to meet the source of the commotion. Katie didn’t turn to see them but remained with her back turned.

“That’s one audience you’ve got...” Cole said, stunned by the scores of people that had come to see the hunter off.

“Come on, Katie. You didn’t think you’d leave without saying goodbye,” Dexter’s voice came over a megaphone calling for her attention.

Slowly, Katie turned her chair to meet the eyes of those that had come to see her. Dexter and the werewolves that lived in Brigadia. A few red eyes confirmed that their alpha was also present. The hunters from the Hunter’s Agency stood, all of them dressed in uniform. The pros were dressed in black while the junior hunters were all dressed in grey.

One of the rare sights in the crowd was Shaemus and his mother. There was a chorus of gasps when they all saw her eyes, but this quickly brushed past them and was replaced with smiles. The last time most of them had seen her, she was ready to fight the Rogue king. “I didn’t think it was right to let the greatest hunter Brigadia has ever had leave without a proper goodbye,” Dexter said once more over the megaphone before getting an elbow to the gut from a girl next to him, “Oh, sorry, let me rephrase that. We all didn’t think it right to let the greatest hunter leave without a proper goodbye.”

A man graced with red eyes walked up to Dexter and asked for the megaphone, “I am the alpha of the Graymoon pack that lives here in Brigadia. I can say with certainty that for the past four years, Katie has

without a doubt protected our town singlehandedly... So much so that we'd grown lazy. It had become useless to put up security against rogues in this town. I think I speak for all of us when I say that... We are going to miss you, Katie," a chorus of handclaps rang through the gathering of people.

"I'll miss my home as well," Katie replied. Her voice came out hoarse while tears threatened to fall from her eyes.

"Oh my... Katie's crying... I guess a new eye colour is not all that's changed," Dexter said, chuckling over the megaphone...

"Oh shut up, Dexter," Katie replied, laughing with him.

Dexter got serious after the short laugh, "Do you still have the same goal as before?"

"Yes, I still do. My resolve remains the same," she replied to him.

"May the moon goddess be with you. I have no doubt you'll bring us out of this war," Dexter replied. For a jerk of a beta, he had surely matured. Katie had no doubt that he'd mobilised the town to come here with him.

Anthony stepped forward with Claire leading the hunters who stood in two lines from the entrance to the jet at attention. "Katie, you've served the Hunters in Brigadia well. For years you defended this town on your own. Sandra recounted the events of the day when you were granted your Prometheus gifts. You aren't alone, Katie. We'll take care of this," the man spoke. His voice wasn't as raised as it usually was, "We'll take it from here, Hunter Chase." With that, they all saluted.

Katie, however, didn't move an inch. Cole, who had started the walk, looked back, "What is it?"

"Someone's left," she replied.

"Who else could..." the sound of thunder stopped the Prince's words in half. From the entrance, making the flashiest entrance, three figures appeared, dressed completely in the black leather that was granted to hunters of very high status. One of them, everyone knew... Jim Gordon, the Thunderclap, but the other two were known only to Katie and the hunters. These two were the ones that had raised her for eighteen years.

To meet figures of such a high stature, Katie turned the chair and stood out of it. Her adoptive mother engulfed her in a hug, "You don't have to stand just for us," she said.

"It only felt right... It's nice to see you guys have your powers back," she replied. Uncle Tom was the next to hug her before he let her back into her chair.

"It's been nice raising a girl as talented as you," he said to her, "It almost feels like it went by in the blink of an eye."

"You're not going to cry now when you've always been the strong one in the family," Katie said to the man.

"Hey, you won't find tears in a family of hunters except when they are saying goodbye to their daughter," the man said. 'Who knew you were more emotional than Aunt Marie?' Katie thought to herself.

“I’m glad I got to see Katie Sirius with my own eyes,” Jim said, taking his place in the line of hunters, but remaining at ease, “You might just make the greatest hunter yet.” With that, Katie started the journey to the jet. The entire town was present for her departure and that was exactly how she wanted it. Whether she left in a wheelchair or a stretcher, her goodbye was meant to be made to the entire town...

“Someone has a large following,” Cole commented as he fell into sync with her speed.

“It’s not a following, Cole. It’s the town I grew up in,” she corrected him. The people that had gathered weren’t there because she was a celebrity, but because she was the girl that had grown up in the town. Everyone there knew who she was... the girl that pushed the book to the position of number one among the safest schools in the entire world, the rogue killer and now the last one that had been added... The girl who’d risked it all to save the town from a horde of rogues...

Each member of the town felt a kinship to Katie Sirius and that was all there was to the send-off they were giving her. Information of her being one of the moon goddess’ Chosen had already spread through the town and they all understood that she couldn’t stay there after being discovered. A princess of that calibre just had too much to take responsibility for... It had been an interesting eighteen years, Katie thought to herself.

The stairs had been adjusted to make a ramp that let her wheelchair get into the plane effortlessly... a large uproar filled the crowd when the plane finally started moving. The citizens of Brigadia roared at the top of their voices as they watched the mightiest eighteen-year-old hunter leaving the town. Deep down, however, they knew they weren’t as safe as they had been before. With Katie around, everyone had relaxed. Learning of her special conditions helped them find peace with her departure and that’s where they drew the strength to give her a thunderous send-off...

115 Chapter One Hundred Fifteen

The flight to Sirius was nothing short of spectacular. They flew over all sorts of landscapes that Katie was thankful they got to see. What she hadn’t expected was for them to cover all that land in a short amount of time. The flight took a duration of four hours and Katie was able to tell that they’d travelled many miles to get there. If she had decided to run the distance, it would have taken her days at her best.

However, thinking of it in that way only missed being able to run. Ashley remained quiet most of the time... Katie would have thought the wolf was trying to rest. She decided against bothering her and moved on to the next most interesting thing. Her female best friend was turning blue.

“Hey, Sandra, you’re glowing in all sorts of colours today,” she mocked the girl. The girl stood out in the bright yellow cape and her motion sickness didn’t help her look any less vibrant.

“Just you wait... I’ll be on the ground strolling in no time,” she countered, hitting Katie where it hurt the most...

“Oh, I know... And considering I was allowed to remain your mentor, you will use those legs exactly the way I tell you to,” Katie replied, flashing her friend the brightest and most innocent smile she could muster.

Sandra groaned and shifted in her seat, having received even worse news concerning what she was to expect in Sirius. Jason walked over and sat next to the girl, pulling her close to him and shooing Katie away, "I haven't seen you this bored in a long time... Shoo, leave my girl," he said.

"Thank you, Jason. She's torturing me," Katie chuckled at the two of them and proceeded to the next group of people... Yes, she had decided to take a tour of the entire plane. One might say she had a hidden motive or was simply too bored to spend the entire flight with her wheelchair in the same place. She was looking for something motivating... of the sorts...

The next group of people she came across was her newfound siblings. Drake lay with his face to the roof, his mouth open snoring lightly. Katie froze at the sight in front of her and shifted her attention to the girl whose eyes were once again glued to the screen of the tablet she'd noticed her with earlier. With earphones plugged in, the only way the girl would have known that Katie was there was if she caught her scent.

Unfortunately, this also didn't get the girl's attention away from the screen. These were her blood siblings... Katie still found the concept somewhat baffling after having grown up in the custody of hunters that trained her to fight and defend herself. She moved her wheelchair closer to her brother and began to poke his cheeks to check just how asleep he was.

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After failing to get a response, she proceeded with the tour. Next was her 'parents'... 'What an odd family I have been blessed with?' she thought to herself only to lose grip of the joystick. The two Royals, the King and Queen, unlike their son, were asleep peacefully in each other's arms. The King had his hands protectively around the Queen who slept peacefully in his arms. 'You two just make everyone about you envious, don't you?' she mentally cursed.

That was the entire crew that was travelling. Sandra had been allowed to join Katie to continue her training as a hunter and to help Katie considering she was no longer able to walk. Cole had offered to take care of all that, but only in private... An offer Katie gladly declined... She didn't know anyone in Sirius besides the werewolves she had only got the pleasure of knowing for a few days and that was not enough to keep her comfortable. It felt selfish of her, but it was what she wanted. She'd let too much happen without her power over it. Changing homes just because you had no choice couldn't be easy on anyone. Sandra coming along only made it easier for her.

"Can't get any sleep?" a deep voice asked the girl, pulling her out of her thoughts. Her reflection stared back at her through the blue eyes of the king... She hadn't noticed when he'd got up and thankfully she was glad she wasn't panicking in front of him as she had for the past week that he'd tried to get her attention.

"Oh, no... It can't be easy to sleep when you are leaving your home to go to someplace that you were actually supposed to have grown up in," she pointed out.

"You really did love Brigadia," the King chuckled, "I hope the capital of Sirius meets your expectations. We discussed with Cole and he agreed to let you live in Sirius for five months. He wouldn't allow any longer than that. I don't know what he is in a rush for, but that's how it stands. I hope you love your stay there."

“Yeah, I hope so too. Why does Cole get to choose that kind of thing?” Katie couldn’t keep from asking.

“Cole is the only child to the Lycaon king and queen. He found his Luna. It only stands to reason that she would live with him in the Lycaon empire. There isn’t much we can do about that... All we could do was get you some time to know your birth home,” he explained.

“Oh, I see... That explains a lot... In an odd forceful kind of way. How long till we land?” she asked him.

The king stretched a bit and checked his watch, “Well, we’ve been in the air for about three and a half hours. We should be there in about thirty minutes. You should get some rest. There’s much to do once you get there,” he said to her.

Katie had almost forgotten that the flight was only the start of her journey. Turning the wheelchair around, she began the journey back to her seat. She found Cole just waking up from his three-hour slumber, “Didn’t you get any sleep?” he asked mid-yawn.

“You’ll suffocate everyone in the plane if you yawn like that,” Katie joked about, “And no, I couldn’t get any sleep. I hope we don’t really have that much to do when we get to Sirius...”

Cole got up and lifted the girl out of the wheelchair with next to no warning. Once he had her straddled against him comfortably, “Now get some sleep, beautiful. There will be a lot to do in Sirius before you can rest again.” Even if Katie wanted to oppose the wolf, she didn’t have the strength to do so. Only a week ago, she had nothing to fear from him because she could take him head-on in a fight and overpower him, or at least that’s how confident she was of her strength, but now she’d been reduced to someone powerless to a normal yellow-eyed werewolf.

She cosied up against the man and let herself drift off into sleep, with help from her werewolf who was purring from being so close to her mate. ‘You can be simple-minded sometimes, Ashley...’

‘Oh, just shut up and sleep, Katie...’

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The plane landed only thirty minutes later and Katie was deep into her sleep at the time. Cole, who had no wishes of waking her watched as the plane was offloaded. Sirius was cold this time of year and he had packed consequently, ‘Caden, could you pass me two jackets?’ the man communicated to one of the alphas unpacking.

Looking back at his friend, Caden realised what the jackets were for and retrieved them from his suitcase. Cole carefully insulated his beautiful mate and carried her out of the plane. “Are you going to wake her?” Lina asked him when she realised he was not helping with the unpacking. Black cars drove over to the private jet, letting out the drivers to help with the unpacking and transportation.

“I’m not waking her. Any objections?” he asked. No one was in the mood to oppose him on that and proceeded with what they were doing, “How far to the palace?”

“Thirty-minute drive... I don’t...” Davin stopped speaking when Katie’s eyes snapped open. The girl was far too alert for someone who had only woken up.

“What’s wrong, Katie?” Martha asked the girl...

Katie sniffed the air for a while trying to comprehend what her senses were trying to tell her, but there was nothing definite, "I don't know anything about the capital. I can't interpret a thing."

"What's that supposed to mean?"

"It's simple. I need to know where I am in order to be able to pinpoint what my senses are trying to tell me or where they are trying to lead me. I know nothing of Sirius. I can't tell a thing," she answered.

Sandra brought the electric wheelchair to the couple making Cole groan in disappointment. Katie chuckled at the man's reaction and let him lower her into the wheelchair, however, the moment he let go of her, she began to feel very unprotected. The spots she'd been shot through started to itch reminding her of her inabilities.

"If you are still getting those odd vibes, then just tell us the general message involved," Lina groaned, getting tired of watching the scene in front of her. She still had two years before maturity and this only made her feel more anxious to skip the two years. She was partially glad that Royals matured a little earlier than ordinary wolves which meant she didn't have so long to wait for her mate.

She was discouraged by her brother though... the man was well into his twenties and was still single. It didn't bother him one bit, but she wouldn't want to wait that long. "I can say one thing," Katie spoke up, catching everyone's attention, "There are rogues here..."

The drivers that were still transporting the luggage froze at the speculation. Katie noticed the tension and her mind went to work trying to discern how safe they were. Without her powers to protect her family, the least she could do was provide holes in their defence. "The princess appears to have cold feet," a man spoke up walking up to them. Katie looked towards him. This one was different... He'd not carried a single bag and he was bulky enough to give Anthony a scare... His eyes shone a bright red that put other alphas to shame.

Katie had seen the colour somewhere before... The man before her at the moment was none other than a beta alpha... "Jackson, how has Sirius been with me gone?" Davin greeted him hugging what appeared to be his old comrade.

"Sirius has been boring without a bit of your flare, your majesty," the man replied, chuckling at the king's enthusiasm. His words were kind to the king and showed no sort of malice silencing all of Katie's red lights... This man was good in her eyes and it hadn't taken any effort to rule him out of the people that she couldn't trust...

116 Chapter One Hundred Sixteen

Laying by the pool and taking a sip of nectar, the drink of the gods... The moon goddess relished the taste of it on her tongue. It was only rarely that she got to enjoy a meal. The gods didn't need much nourishment and so every meal was for the sake of pleasing their tastebuds... She'd watched the entire fight that happened and was trying her best to keep her moods up. Nothing was going right... She knew her call with granting Ashley a rebirth as Katie's wolf was the right one, but that had only gotten the girl to accept her wolf in the middle of battle.

Had it not been for that, Katie would have not managed to even meet the Rogue King. However, now that Katie had survived the near-death experience, she was stuck in a wheelchair which was the

opposite of what she wanted to happen. The sound of footsteps caught her attention. Her husband walked up to her with a platter of heaven's finest ambrosia... "I don't like this," she began.

"Oh, you mean the ambrosia... I could just take it back or eat it all on my own," Seth replied, threatening to retrace his steps.

"Ugh, Seth, you know what I mean. The girl... What in the world is she doing?" Celeste screamed at nothing in particular. Seth walked up to her and moved the glass of nectar far from her so that she didn't spill the drink. The goddess sighed, "How can you be so calm?"

"Well, I don't exactly know everything that's going on... I saw her getting hit. And now she's recovering, what's the problem?" he asked her, trying to see what he was missing.

"My chosen ones do not take that long to heal. Cole doesn't even know what wounds on his body look like," she groaned, "I've checked the girl's body myself. She has no injuries left. Her body is in pristine condition... if not, she's even better than she'd been before."

"Really... Wait, you checked her. You know you're not supposed to interfere again. After what you did the last time..."

"Relax Seth. I didn't do anything like that. I just had Ashley tell me what's going on with the girl's body. There isn't even an injury in the girl's body and from what I could tell, she was supposed to be stronger after pushing herself past the limit like that," she explained.

Seth walked up to the pond the goddess was lying beside and looked down at the scene that was playing. The Sirius royal family had finally been reunited with their daughter, "Oh, isn't that reunion touching. They are even about to show her about the capital," the man swooned.

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"That's not helping... You know what... We should ask an expert," she finally concluded, her resolve shining through the mind link they shared.

"Wait, you don't mean your brother?" he asked only to realise how foolish a question it was, "Oh, come on, Celeste. Wasn't involving the Lord of the Underworld too much, to begin with?"

"I am not involving any of them in this war. I'm just going to them for advice and a few favours. In truth, they aren't interfering in the war below," she was quick to defend herself.

"Of course, you keep telling yourself that," Seth groaned, taking a bite of the ambrosia on his plate before placing it down and following his mate... After he'd caught up with her quick steps, he asked, "So when are we starting a family? Just hypothetically speaking..."

"We are immortal, Seth. That could as well as be after the war is over and humans are living together with werewolves in peace and harmony," she said to him, pushing the large doors of the palace open and walking out to the courtyard. The man made sure to keep up the pace as the woman seemed to be in a hurry.

"WHAT?!! But that's probably two more centuries from now," he complained, skipping over his implication that Katie would not be able to end the war in the time that she had.

“No... you humans really have an odd way of looking at the time. Just think of it this way, whether we have children now or in hundred years, they’ll all grow in an instant and stay like that for all eternity, undying... If you were planning on raising them and instilling things like morals and ideas into their heads, think again,” she explained.

“You make it sound so dark and boring...” Even after being brought back as her divine spouse, she still treated him like a human whenever he used human concepts with her.

“Yeah, I guess you could say it is... You’re not the first one to want a child amongst the gods. Maybe we’d actually get blessed with a child who doesn’t grow so fast. It’s happened before...” she shrugged, “But that’s not a conversation we are supposed to be having now of all times.”

In a flash of light that engulfed the two of them, the goddess and her spouse vanished from the castle courtyard, reaching their destination in barely a blink of an eye. To human eyes, this would have been a random shooting star streaking across the sky. The gods couldn’t bother themselves with such details anyways.

“What’s with this place?” Seth covered his eyes when he realised the palace they were visiting gleamed brightly with a flash of golden brilliance. He couldn’t keep his eyes open at the sight of it. It was like staring into the sun...

“I forgot you still have some of your mortal quirks... You might want to look at it more before we land. It is the sun, you know,” she said to him.

“I am not going to try and understand what you have just said,” he exclaimed and kept his eyes trained on the bright structure until his eyes adjusted, allowing him to view it much better. When they landed, the brilliance of the palace was all but gone and it now stood normal. It was still gold, but didn’t hurt to look at...

“He likes being flashy. Reminds me of a certain werewolf king,” the moon goddess said, continuing the walk to the entrance like nothing had happened. Seth strained to get his bearings right and catch up to the goddess. This was the difference between a hero and a goddess.

“What are you going to tell him?” he asked her, wondering what she was cooking up this time.

“Hush, I need to figure that out before we find him,” she said to him. One more look at her face told him all he needed to know. The moon goddess was beautiful and even more so to werewolves that they’d lose much of their thinking speed just by staring at her. However, after being reborn as her spouse, he could look through those charms and discern her expressions. She was stuck in thought on whatever she was supposed to be telling her brother...

He never got tired of watching her at work. The moon goddess was serious as long as it came to her creation and for two centuries, she’d been working to bring them out of their oppression. The gods were restricted from doing a lot when it came to mortals and they both knew that, but it didn’t mean they were exempted from providing indirect help and this was what the moon goddess had been learning to perfect.

After walking through the palace for what felt like ages, they finally found the room that exuded the most divine energy. This was only possible when a god was not trying to make themselves known to the

people around them. Celeste pushed the large doors of what she'd now come to know as the Sun god's laboratory.

The male god stayed unfazed at his worktable looking through a microscope at whatever his current project was, barely sparing them any attention. Celeste, however, had expected this to be their invitation in and she walked up to him and stood on the other side of the table he was working from.

"Nice to see you pay me a visit, dear..." the man stopped when he saw her, "Oh, you... What do you want, Celeste?"

"A proper greeting would have started this off quite smoothly," she replied.

"And yet the sun must still set and the moon must still rise. I am a busy man, you know. Especially when I'm working on a new plague to set on those darling humans down there," he mused, taking a look at the telescope once more with a mischievous smile.

The god, Apollo... He went by many titles... The god of plagues, the god of music, the god of Archery, the god of Prophecy, the god of the Sun, the god of Medicine, the god of poetry, the god of light, the god of truth among other things that the god loved about himself. For all Celeste knew, he could have also been the god of all men that loved boasting about their good looks.

117 Chapter One Hundred Seventeen

"And here I was thinking that you would be working on a cure rather than a plague for once in your life," she retorted, rolling her eyes at the god's petty hobby.

"Oh, my son, dear Asclepius is the one who's always handling the cures. Trying to prove to his father that he can undo every type of cruelty I set on the humans. Sometimes I think that boy is delusional about my love for him. Doesn't he realise I'm making him greater?" the gods twisted logic failed to worm its way into Seth's mind. He simply couldn't understand what Apollo was getting at.

"Do these puzzles ever get you closer to your son? I'm sure he just loves the humans a bit more than you'd like to accept," Celeste tried.

"I would only accept your opinion if you assumed the form of you that I respect. So... 'Celeste,' get on with it... As you can tell, I am quite busy," he said. Seth was wondering what was going on between the two of them considering they were supposed to be siblings.

"I have a medical issue that I'd like to run by you," she said.

"Can't you just go Asclepius? The 'god' of medicine, ugh," he raised air quotes around his son's name, "Unless it's a werewolf in trouble, then that means you had no choice but to come to me."

"Do you think you can put aside your deductive reasoning for once? I have a problem, it's medical, it's with a werewolf. I decided to come and ask for my brother for help. Before your son, you were the one who knew everything to do with medicine. Those of us who still remember those times still come to you if we ever need such help," she tried to reason through the man's ego.

"You and who else... You're the first one to come to me for help with anything medicinal in a very long time. I was thinking of completely going for the title Apollo, god of plagues and pandemics," he continued.

“Brother, will you help me?” she asked him. There was nothing left she could say to convince him that he was still respected as a god of medicine. Asclepius had far surpassed him in that right and was known across the human world as the god of medicine. This was Apollo sulking after having lost that power.

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“What makes you think I’d help you? Gods can heal all kinds of injuries with a flick of their hands. Go do that,” he said.

“The person I’m trying to heal has no injury to heal brother,” this got god’s attention.

“Now that is interesting. It’s no wonder you came to me. I wonder if one of my plagues got to them. Follow me to my scrying pool so that I might see this poor soul in need of the Lord Apollo’s help,” his voice boomed across the castle while he strode out of the laboratory.

The two followed him as he led the way to the pool he used to watch over the human world. Opening the room he spoke of, a cloud of dust drenched the god in brown dirt. Celeste hadn’t caught up to him and did all she could to preserve her laughter. Quite embarrassed the god walked into the darkroom, lights turning on automatically and illuminating the countless books that lay inside gathering dust in the room.

“After what happened with the werewolves and the big man banning all godly interference except for you and Prometheus... well, until you fix your mess, I haven’t visited this room. Years of civilisation and development fell after what you pulled,” he said to her, “But all is forgotten, dear sister. Who is it you want me to look at?”

Celeste, feeling a slight pang of guilt walked up to the pool at the centre of the room and cast a glow upon it, springing it back to life and wiping all the dust off it in an instant. Seth was getting used to seeing the impossible. Well, after how long he’d been in his relationship with the goddess, he knew what to expect every time he walked into another god’s domain.

“That’s her,” her voice brought him out of his thoughts and he looked into the pool to see the girl being carried out of the plane by her mate. The two fit together like puzzle pieces that almost made him envious. Had he not married the goddess herself, he would have been.

“Who exactly? The one being carried. She’s in more shape than most of the people around there. And brimming with so much raw power and potential. I can tell she’s not even in her prime yet and she still holds so much power. Maybe if you’re talking about the one holding her,” the god said.

“Who, Cole... No, he’s fine. I’m talking about the girl he’s holding,” she said to him, getting slightly frustrated.

Right before Apollo could protest, he saw the girl get placed into a wheelchair. His eyes, after hundreds of years in the field of medicine, noticed all the twitches the girl’s muscles made. The dormancy of her arms and legs and yet keeping the strength they held. It was like she was in good shape, but didn’t even know, “Now I see the problem...”

“Finally, some good news... What seems to be the problem?” she asked, getting excited.

“It’s all in her head,” the man said.

“That must be the least anticlimactic diagnosis you’ve given in the centuries that I have known you, brother. What do you mean it’s all in her head?” she asked.

“I mean just that... The girl doesn’t know she’s fine or at least, she does but doesn’t accept it. It’s quite bizarre what the mind of a human can do. I watched the man cut his son’s head off just because he thought it was a vine of grapes,” the man mused.

“That was... a very long time ago, brother...”

“I know, but when you’re as bored as I’m getting, you remember a lot about the past. I’ve also realised I’ve never once done something just from the goodness of my heart. I’ve heard humans speak of such a thing. So for once, I will do it for you dear... sister, even though I like you better when you don’t look like that,” he spoke.

“I assume you’ll be leaving now,” he said, sitting cross-legged to watch the pool.

“I thought you weren’t allowed to use this room,” she said.

“Oh no, I’m not allowed to interfere with humans, but nothing says I can’t watch them. I’m curious to know how this girl’s life goes. I have never seen a human brimming with this much power from the gods. You must be scared to take measures as drastic as this... Good luck, Celeste. Fix this crap, so that I can get to messing around with humans once more,” he mused, ordering one of his servants to bring him a plate of ambrosia. His experiment was completely forgotten and now occupied by what seemed to be a far more interesting movie.

They strode out of the room with their mission done and with more hope for the future than what they’d arrived with. Once again, Seth was left astounded by the efficiency the moon goddess had gotten out of this endeavour. “What just happened?”

“I asked for a favour and got it done,” she replied as though nothing special had happened.

“I didn’t even notice him use any power to diagnose the girl. He just stood there and looked at her,” he continued to grumble.

“Are you surprised? Asclepius might be good at his job, but his father was the first to study the human anatomy to the letter. Apollo got so absorbed in making plagues that he didn’t notice his son surpass him. Before long, the boy had invented something that could even cheat death. Something like that would only make him earn the title, ‘god of medicine.’

“Aren’t you guys afraid of mentioning names of gods so easily?” Seth asked.

“That’s only for gods that are much more powerful. Asclepius is a peaceful lad,” she replied. They were only getting to the courtyard of Apollo’s palace when Seth stopped the moon goddess tugging on her hand. She’d been moving so fast she didn’t notice he wanted to talk to her.

“Why aren’t you and your brother on good talking terms?” he asked her.

“Seth, look at me. I’m the moon goddess, Celeste. The version of Artemis that doesn’t go according to her original vows. Do you really think he would be happy to see me in this form?” she narrowed her eyes at him, “Oh, let’s go already...”

The last statement he meant to say to her was drowned out by the sound of a twister that developed when they began their travel back to the palace. White light enveloped them and cast them across the sky, "You're still lovable just the way you are..." He knew it to be a fact... after all, why had Apollo stayed to watch what his sister was up to with the werewolves...

118 Chapter One Hundred Eighteen

Driving through Sirius was nothing short of magical... The city was full of more people than Katie was used to and the collaboration between werewolf and human was almost nothing to think about. Humans traded with werewolves, ate with them and everything else that was required of the world that Katie wanted to see. She found that children also played amongst each other without a care for the colour of their eyes.

"You look like you are enjoying the view..." the man she'd only now come to know as Jackson spoke from the driver's seat. Katie sat in this vehicle with Cole and Sandra, the trio two people that she was most comfortable with. The palace was said to be a thirty-minute drive away and she'd almost rested through the whole of it.

The different scents that worked their way into her nostrils and the different numerous sounds of life in the bustling city didn't let her rest through the ride. "Why would anyone want to miss the sight of this kind of city?" she replied, staring as they drove past a group of cyclists racing. It didn't matter what they were and Katie soon found that she was going to have to keep her opinion of races to herself.

"This is one of the only few places where the dream of the Royals shines through. The people here have met the Royals in person. Their positive energy is quite contagious," Jackson explained, noticing the expression on the girl's face through the driving mirror.

Katie had been working for so long to achieve something similar in Brigadia, but she hadn't had as much progress as what she was currently witnessing in this place, "It's beautiful," she replied. A wide smile spread across the beta alpha's face. Unlike the others she had met the other night, this one was kind and didn't bear any negative energy towards her.

Closing her eyes to feel for any signs of trouble like she was taught, she found that nothing came through on her radar. She knew nothing of the new world she was in. There were new scents, new sights, new experiences, new people and she wasn't used to any of it. "We'll be at the castle shortly," Cole told her, sensing her discomfort.

"What's going to be done once we get to the castle?" she asked the beta alpha.

"We'll first take you through a tour of the castle and then to the room that..." he paused for the moment, "That you will be staying in with your mate. The rest of what you would like to visit will be left to you. Later this evening, your parents have asked that you meet with them for a walk. The venue of this will be of their own choosing and they might require your consent when deciding this. After that, you will be allowed to do as you please for the rest of the day."

"That sounds like a lot of moving," Katie groaned, "Just how big is the palace?"

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This got Jackson smirking once more, “You don’t have long to wait... In fact, you should be seeing it in the next few seconds,” he said.

Katie sat up straight and looked ahead. She’d barely noticed when it was that they’d exited the city and started a path through a more forested area. Luxurious houses were littered on both sides of the road they were currently on, perfectly blended into the nature that sprung around them. At the end of the road, however, a large gate stood tall, but it couldn’t hide the massive structure behind the walls.

The gates opened to reveal the large palace. The windows of the car went down the moment they were inside the gates, letting in the morning air. “They weren’t joking when they said Sirius was cold this time of the year,” Sandra shivered from the front seat. Katie looked out to the clouds that enveloped the sky concealing the sun from view.

Normally, the cold would have gotten to her already, but this was yet another reminder that she was no longer human. “Sandra, make sure to keep your condition known to me whenever it’s required,” the order was clear.

“So, you don’t feel the cold, huh...”

“Not one bit...” she sighed.

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Katie was prepared for a day of definite boredom. The Royals spoke of tours and getting her used to her new environment. “This can’t be easy on you,” Cole spoke after a moment of silence. The giant staircase had been fitted with a ramp to help her move about on her wheelchair.

“That’s not it...” she replied, trying to swat the unease that wouldn’t leave her.

“What is it then?” he asked her. The werewolves that noticed the convoy immediately offered to help with the offloading and started to take them into the palace. A few ladies walked up to them, their eyes gleaming green and took notice of Cole’s blue.

“It’s the fact that I don’t know this place. I can’t tell what my senses are trying to tell me. I’ve never run through the woods that surround this place. I can’t tell if it’s trouble I sense or merely a friend that I’m supposed to meet. It’s like reaching for nothing in the dark,” she explained.

“You mean your Chase mojo?” Cole asked, remembering the grand send-off that she’d known of without any prior knowledge, “I found it impressive at the airstrip.”

“Yeah, it’s impressive even to the users,” she chuckled.

“I don’t think I’ve seen you two around here. Are you from the Lycaon Royal family?” a female voice cut through their conversation. Katie looked and locked eyes with a werewolf with green eyes.

“Hey, Crysta... Long time no see,” Lina’s voice cut through the slowly forming tension, catching her friend’s attention... Katie, who hadn’t had the time to take in the blonde girl’s features had only gotten flashbacks of a similar beta’s son, Dexter.

“Hey, Lina. You’re back, already. When did that happen?” the girl asked her friend. The other two that the girl walked around with had the yellow eyes of a normal werewolf kept their eyes suspiciously trained on Katie.

“Who might this be?” one of them asked, curiosity leaking through her voice, “And what’s Cole Lycaon doing here?”

“Ah, you know who I am...” Cole spoke up, “That’s odd. I was sure to keep cameras away from me growing up.”

“Yes, that might be true. However, I was at the last Royal games and watched when you took down Alpha Drake in the final fight,” she piped up. This was a genuine fan of the Royal and didn’t raise a single red light within Katie’s defences. ‘Your powers are so weird...’ Ashley huffed, not approving of the girl’s conduct around their mate.

“Lina, might we get introductions out of the way?” Katie asked her sister, getting uncomfortable under the scrutiny.

“Someone’s eager... You have blue eyes. I know all the Royals from the Sirius...”

“Hold your tongue, beta...” Katie said before she could stop herself. Her eyes gleamed a bright blue and stop her. With a sharp inhale, the girl went perfectly still. The girl began to slowly turn pale and recognition hit the royals far later than they would have liked. Lina rushed to her friend and shook her, her blue eyes gleaming in a way similar to what Katie’s eyes had done...

“Snap out of it Crysta,” it barely took seconds for the girl to snap out of the trance and gasp for air. Cole came by Katie and squatted in front of her, looking up so they met eye to eye.

“I thought you...”

“I know the rules, Cole...” she cut him off.

“Then why did you do that? The Royals don’t take kindly to abuse of that ability or even using it at all. If anything were to...”

“Cole, it won’t happen again, okay. I just need some fresh air,” she stopped him once more and wheeled out of there, with one destination in mind, the main gates. Cole knew she couldn’t get far by herself and chose to follow once she’d cleared what had happened here.

“What’s with her? Doesn’t she know what kind of crime that is?” Crysta started, finally finding her words. Cole could tell that she was livid and wanted retribution for receiving a command. This was the gift that had been banned amongst the Royals. Simply because it couldn’t be rejected. A werewolf, if commanded by a Royal, could even kill themselves.

“I’m sorry about that Crysta. Forgive my sister’s manners. She doesn’t know much about being a werewolf,” she said.

“That doesn’t make any sense, Lina. You don’t have a sister,” Crysta argued.

“I do... The same one that was thought to be murdered eighteen years ago,” Lina tried.

"I would like to apologise on behalf of my mate for her behaviour. I'll talk to her... If I'm being honest, she's only been a werewolf for a week. She doesn't know how all of this works just yet," he said to the girl. The statement struck a different chord from what Cole could have hoped.

"Lina, your sister died eighteen years ago. I know the Royals had hope in that girl being their saviour, but she's gone. Where did you even get that girl from?" Crysta asked. Her friends seemed to agree with her words. Cole, on the other hand, chose that moment to take his leave. With a short bow, he walked away from them...

He wasn't aware of the green eyes that followed his every move... "Crysta, I was with you at the Royal games last time we went, wasn't I?" her friend asked her. The green-eyed girl whacked her friend on the head and huffed walking away from them... Lina stared on in confusion, 'What just happened?'

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Cole finally caught up to the girl at the main gate. With next to no resistance, the gates were opened for her to get out. Cole didn't like the ease with which she could get out and glared at the wolves that had opened for her before going after her, "Katie, where are you going?" he called to her.

"Cole, I need a tour of the outside," she went straight to the point.

"Huh, what's that supposed to mean?" the tapping her feet made against the foothold told him what she wanted, "Well, there is a way," he said smirking. The girl's face lit up in excitement, a look the Royal hadn't noticed he was missing this entire time.

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Nothing beat the feel of air rushing through someone when they were running at speeds that made everything pass by in a blur. There was a freedom that it offered Katie every time she diminished the significance of distance by reaching a speed higher than that of an average human.

The feeling wasn't any different atop the black wolf that had offered to take her through the forest. She felt at peace as they ran through the forest. Travelling, getting shot, almost dying, losing the ability to walk, shifting into a werewolf and gaining a new family... It was borderline insane what had happened to the girl in the span of one week...

Cole could feel the emotions that were released when she let herself become one with the nature that they ran through. Unbeknownst to him was the ability that was constantly active mapping the entire forest as they went through it. Katie ignored the workings of her gift and let the mapping go on... It was part of what she'd wanted to happen anyway as she was constantly on edge without being able to clearly detect what was happening in the surrounding woods.

The sound of running water hit the girl's ears and got her out of her reverie, "Cole, is there a river near here?" she asked him.

"Yeah, the River of Sirius..." he hated to say the name, "These specific royals just loved naming everything after themselves. They say Sirius was the humbler of the two of the first Royals, but his descendants are surely made of some other genes."

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Katie couldn't help, but laugh at the complaints. This very same thing could be seen in the king's conduct... He loved the attention he got from dressing in white... along with the attention he got from moving around with a wife that he clearly thought of as the most beautiful person in the world. Katie groaned at the memory of the two... 'Do they really have to be like that in public?'

"You mean your parents... Oh, wouldn't you like us to be just like them?" Cole, who had received the comment along with visuals through their mind link, inquired from his mate.

"I'll not comment on that. Where is the river?" she said, however much her wolf went out of her way to send comforting thoughts to the wolf.

Cole chuckled at the difference between the two personalities, "You have an interesting wolf. The river is nearby. We'll be there very soon..."

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After taking a dip in the river, completely conducted through the help of her mate, Katie was able to finally relax her mind. The male loved tending to his mate despite the roles and responsibilities he'd been trained to handle throughout his life. The creases that threatened to scar her face were now gone and she looked at ease for once... Her clothes were wet, but she didn't seem to mind that...

"Would you like to tell me what's going on with you?" he asked her.

The question brought Katie's mind back to reality, her look of peace leaving her altogether making Cole regret asking. She now looked a little worried instead, "Cole... do you know what I thought would happen after I had shifted?" she asked.

"No, I don't. What was that?"

Katie chuckled, covering her face in embarrassment, "It's so silly now that I look at it, but I thought that I'd be going back to school the next day and have to live with the fact that I was a werewolf that was heading the junior hunters and security of the school. In fact, I was getting ready for the big reveal and everything. Everything would eventually settle and my life in Brigadia would continue the way it normally was. With my two best friends... I would have never seen a fraction of any of this coming..."

"I hadn't realized..."

"Hush, Lycaon... I'm not going to be a pain. I just needed some fresh air to relax my mind. I'll learn to walk again... then I'll learn to fight again and we'll soon be back on our mission to defeat him," she said to him, looking him straight in the eye.

There was a moment of silence between the two as they stared at each other, "It's 'we' now..."

"You made me promise I wouldn't do it alone. So that's what you get," she replied...

"If it means I get to keep you safe from him, that's fine with me..." getting severely interested in the colour of her eyes and with how they constantly shone a strong blue. It was almost as though life pulsed out of them. Without thinking, the man found himself kissing her and without objecting, she kissed him back...

“Oh, how sweet...” a voice interrupted them. Cole growled at the man for the rude interruption, “Oh, don’t mind me. I just love watching young couples before I kill them.”

Cole didn’t let much come from him before he’d launched himself into an attack. Trying to get the upper hand before the man could get ready for a fight. Katie was more curious about the way the man was dressed. Dressed in leather armour that left his arms exposed and a kilt for his legs. He looked like an ancient warrior. However, that did nothing to dull the danger he clearly posed them.

Before Cole could get to the man, he’d already been overpowered and knocked unconscious. “Ouch, that looked like it hurt,” the man went again, lifting Cole by his shirt and tossing him the nearest tree from the treeline that bordered the river shore.

“What do you want?” Katie asked. From the years she’d spent training her Prometheus agility gift, she was able to follow the man’s movements while Cole had rushed in blindly and underestimated his opponent.

“Well, if you’re wondering why or how I took him down so fast, it was simply because he was reckless. I’m sure I’ve seen this boy fight in a more formidable manner. Love must be getting to his head these days,” the man continued to ignore Katie’s questions.

Straining her legs, she tried to get to her feet only to fall to the ground as pain rushed through her like electricity. Her knees had buckled under the pain and brought her down almost immediately, “Oh my... You look lame... Should you be straining yourself like that?”

“I asked you what you are doing here...” Katie repeated through gritted teeth.

The man reached for his waist belt and retrieved a dagger, “Nothing much really. I just realised this might be the right moment to save the Rogue King some trouble and kill the weak wolves that are causing him one hell of a headache...” he was playing with the knife tracing the artery on the man’s neck with the shaft of the dagger.

Fear finally set into Katie’s system... Cole was at the mercy of this man and she was immobilised, “Oh, come on, Katie... I don’t want to kill you without having a little fun first. I can slit his throat very easily and you are going to remain seated there and watch when the doctor told you your injuries were only mental... That’s path...”

The man stopped halfway through his speech just in time to dodge a fist aimed at his jaw. Katie’s feet buckled once more and she tumbled past Cole. It had taken every ounce of energy she had to get up and activate her abilities... Her legs screamed from the strain... “That pain you feel... Can you believe it’s all mental? What troubles you?”

“Shut up...”

“Oh you will have to make me shut up, young lady. Other than that, I have the liberty to say everything I want. Are you probably still blaming yourself for not being able to capture Kyle like you promised and letting Ashley’s murderer just go?” the wolf went still at the mention of her name... ‘What?’

“Or maybe are you blaming yourself for losing to Jeremiah and also letting him go. Or is it because you let the Rogue king go...”

The man leapt out of the way just in time again. Katie's fist this time smashed into a tree, the wood groaning under the pressure of her strength. "I told you to shut up..."

"Oh, that one was close... So you can move after all... I'm afraid you still can't touch me with those measly gifts of yours," he boasted, loading him onto his back like luggage. With only thoughts of losing Cole, Katie didn't have time to care about how much pain or stress her legs and arms were under. Once she found that she could bear it and move... she wasted no time in using that chance to pursue Cole's assailant...

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Katie was quick to follow; this time her legs didn't hurt. Adrenaline pulsed through her body energising her to keep up the assault. However, the oddly dressed cosplay character nimbly dodged all her attempts, smirking and making unnecessary comments every time she got close to hitting him. She finally collapsed deep in the forest, having failed to land a single hit on the man.

Her breath was laboured and the guilt that weighed on her conscience was reaching its limit, "I know I failed... I was there. I watched Kyle get taken away and I watched as four arrows put holes into me... surrounded by hundreds of rogues... I'm not a god. What could I have done?" she yelled at him.

"There it is... The true despair behind shouldering the burden of others. You say you will protect them all from the rogues and then make the mistake of thinking you have to do it all on your own. You train yourself alone and leave the others behind. What good did it get you when in the end, you were going to be killed because of it. What would you have accomplished?" the man continued to ask.

"What's your point?"

"Well, if you'd watched the way your parents used to fight... Or even that dynamic duo, Frost and Jack o'lantern, is it?"

"The name's Jackeline..."

"Whatever... My point is that you don't have to face everything on your own. You have much to lose if you do that. I'll make a deal with you. I'll spare his life if and only if..." Katie paid utmost attention to the conditions she was being given. Knowing full well there was nothing she could do to save Cole, she would have liked to know the alternative and hopefully negotiate. She hated being the one being forced to compile, but her wounded pride was nothing compared to the pain she'd feel if she lost him...

"You turn down your Prometheus gifts and walk up to me... I'll place the Royal at my feet and when you finally touch him, I'll let you go. If you cannot do that... Then I'll kill him," he said to her. Leaping away from her to put distance between them. Katie had expected something vile, but it wasn't the case. How could she blindly believe what the man said...? She knew she couldn't get away and could attack him... In fact, she was totally at his mercy and yet he continued to toy with her.

Turning down the power the gifts gave her, she felt the energy leave her legs and the pain return. She placed one foot in front of the other and closed her eyes... and attempt to rid herself of the pain. 'The pain is imaginary... It's all in your head... A collection of all your failures just coming back to make sure you never get the chance to fail again...' this was Ashley's voice now.

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“What are you talking about, Ashley?”

“I have visited your memories, Katie. I’m sorry for the life you’ve lived until this point, but you must accept that mistakes happen. Otherwise, you’ll never be able to bring about the world that you seek,” she replied.

Walking to Cole’s unconscious body was a sea of pain that dulled her very thoughts. The face of the unconscious prince seemed to be the only thing that kept her focused on the goal before her, “Katie, your parents gave up too much for them to merely watch you fail. You need to get up.”

“What parents?”

“All four of them, Katie... All four of them,” the wolf continued. The more Ashley spoke to her, the less the pain got. Her foot suddenly hit an obstacle and nearly made her tumble. It was Cole’s body...

“I see you made it... How do your legs feel?”

“They are fine...” even after everything the man before her had done, she did nothing to attack him.

“You’re not attacking me... Why is that?” he asked.

“I haven’t felt the need to attack since you appeared before us. I figure your someone I should know,” she replied, finally looking the man in the eye...

“That’s good to hear... You might call me Seth,” in a puff of white smoke, the odd man was gone and so was the pain in the girl’s hands and legs...

“Thank you...” she mouthed to the nothingness before her...

Katie got down and checked the male before her for any injuries. Surprisingly, he bore no scratch on his body. ‘Damn, do you even get injured?’ she marvelled. She was sure the strike that took him out would have been powerful enough to leave a mark, but alas the man was unharmed and beginning to stir awake.

‘I guess that was another one of the moon goddess’ attempts to keep me alive. How many favours will I owe that goddess when all this is done?’ she chuckled to herself while she got the royal to his feet.

“What in the world happened? Katie...” Cole’s voice came out groggy as though he was from sleep.

“Did you enjoy your nap?” she asked him, waiting for the oaf to realise where he was putting his weight.

“Oh yeah, it was a peaceful nap. Haven’t had one in a while... Wait, was I supposed to be sleeping? Why are you carrying...” he went silent, his eyes snapping open to look his mate up and down right before giving her the biggest hug she’d ever seen him give.

“Took you long enough,” Katie chuckled, holding on tight to the man. ‘Did it feel this way when you almost lost me?’ Ashley’s words mirrored Katie’s exact feeling. For a moment, they both believed Seth was going to kill him and had found themselves utterly helpless...

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Seth finally returned to the palace on the moon where his wife lay with her mouth agape staring at the scene that had just happened in front of her. Seth returned to the palace changing out of the outfit he was into something that was more fitting of this era... after walking a few steps into the palace he shuddered once more at the memory of having to wear those clothes every time he was sent to intervene with mortals on behalf of his goddess.

Finally making it to the room they watched over the world below from, he began his string of complaints and grievances without noticing the look on his wife's face. "Why do I have to dress like that every time? It's preposterous. It's definitely no longer right to dress like that in this day and age. And not to mention the fact that I wore that outfit so many bloody years ago. Do you have to make me wear it again every single time?"

"It's what you wore when you died. It's the law that if you are to intervene with the humans on my behalf that you dress in the last connection you had to mankind," she said to him.

"That is a very absurd law and I want it removed. Ugh, I look like a barbarian in those clothes," he continued.

"But you were once proud of them. One of the greatest warriors I've ever known," the moon goddess praised, "And besides, I think you still look amazing in that outfit."

"Name one thing about it that you like and if it's terrible I am going to..."

"It's symbolic, Seth. You need to get that through your skull. Katie would have not been able to tell that you weren't a threat unless you wore it. Besides, it shows off your biceps..." the woman mumbled the last part, popping a piece of ambrosia into her mouth before looking back into the pool. Seth chose to end his tantrum at that point and help ease the nerves his wife was obviously trying to keep hidden from him.

"What's bothering you, honey?" he asked her, rubbing her shoulders and pulling her into his hands.

"Did you have to go rough on her that much?" she asked him. One of the things he liked about her was her empathy and it shone every time she watched her creatures go through suffering. It had been centuries since the war began and she hadn't lost that part of her.

"I needed to get her to forget about her legs for the moment and focus on saving her mate. I didn't even know she like her mate that much. I do feel sorry for her wolf though. Staying restrained the whole time you watch your human half fail to get your mate from the enemy mustn't feel good," he commented.

"No, it mustn't. I hope she can carry on from now. I don't see us helping her a lot from this point onwards," the moon goddess' voice was filled with worry, but Seth knew better... after all, he'd been there to fight the girl.

"I wouldn't worry about her. She'll be fine now. Take a close look at where she is," he pointed to the girl and zoomed out to provide an aerial view. The River of Sirius was well over fifteen miles from where they were and Katie hadn't seemed to notice the distance they'd travelled.

"But how..."

“I don’t know... The girl kept me on my toes... well, for a mortal. I thought the distance would wear her out, but she was relentless and kept attacking me each time like it was her first. I must say I was impressed. She can walk now and is only going to get stronger from here on out. So fear not, my love...

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