

Chosen 151

151 Chapter One Hundred Fifty One

When Katie was done telling them of what had happened, the queen awoke from her sleep and ordered a serving to be brought to them in the office. Katie barely noticed the beautiful woman join them at her husband's side. The servants made sure to bring in everything and set it up as quickly and efficiently as they could without interrupting the discussion that was going on amongst the royals.

"Regarding Lina's situation, I was not sure it was that bad and I know that is irresponsible of me," the king confessed.

"No one is blaming you, dear. I asked the other alphas to keep their children on a short leash ever when it got bad, but I guess the damage had already been done. She's been growing more and more distant with the pack since then and only staying in contact with one free spirit," the Queen said.

"You're talking about that girl, Honour," the King surmised. Queen Martha nodded in reply. It wasn't enough to get their daughter to regain her confidence and pride in the family she was born in, but there were only a handful of things they could do.

"I could help train her. It couldn't hurt to teach her to use that speed to her advantage. She might just be able to use that speed of hers to achieve..."

"That is not something you will be able to do for a while, dearie," Frank interrupted Katie. It was the first time he was speaking since the start of the meeting and Cole finally got the chance to take in his appearance. He'd seen him before but hadn't got the chance to talk to him that time.

"Are you..."

"Ugh, Frank Silver, yes it's me. The glamorous Cupid Shooter strikes faster than the eye can follow. Is that the introduction everyone's been looking for?" the man groaned.

"Yes, Frank. That is the introduction we've all been looking for," the Queen smiled.

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"Right. Anyway, I was telling the princess here that she will be training under me for the rest of her stay here until I deem her capable of protecting herself from that archer," he said.

"I am perfectly capable of handling Jeremy," Katie replied, anger laced within her face.

"No, you aren't. That boy has been taking it far too easy on you and you haven't even noticed it yet. I got all the information from the person who told you how to wield a bow. You are capable of catching four arrows fired at you in quick succession. I witnessed that boy fire six arrows at your back. If you weren't a Chase hunter, I would say you made a foolish move to keep running in my direction," Frank lectured.

Cole tensed at this revelation, "Wait, what..."

"Calm down, Cole. The girl wouldn't have done something like that without knowing of my presence or at least sense it like the Chase hunters all seem to do. Gives them an advantage in the battlefield that

we can't all rely on. I won't have you run around with a target on your back that you can't evade," the man finished his speech...

Katie was glad she'd been defended even though she hadn't been sure of her senses at the moment she was going to be shot. 'We'll talk about this later,' Cole's voice came through the mind link, trumping all her hopes of coming out of it unscathed. "What exactly are you doing in Sirius Frank?" the king asked the man.

"I was sent here to keep an eye on the princess while the situation of the rogues was being investigated. The Thunderclap decided he had nothing he could teach after having heard her break the sound barrier once. I was advised to further her training in archery and teach her how to take advantage of her strength gift. I can't believe the power of a Mighty Warrior is being redirected into helping one person achieve more power. There are so many other people I could be helping right now," the man complained.

"I don't need training. You can just skip on to the next town," Katie said, trying her best to keep an indifferent tone, "Just who has ever heard of the hunter being trained by another hunter?"

"Ah, is someone embarrassed because she's not as powerful as she thought she was?" Frank started.

"No... Yes... Fine, you can train me. I know I'm not nearly strong enough to bring that wolf to its knees just yet," Katie gave up the fight against the pink-clad man.

"You know you're not alone," Cole reminded her.

"Yeah, I know that..."

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When the meeting was done and they were done eating, Katie and Cole bid the king and Queen farewell. Frank established that her after class sessions were to be taken up by her training and he promised a gruesome training regimen. She didn't really mind considering she was used to pushing herself to the limit. As they were getting out of the office, Katie's senses flared up just in time to see the King's 'brother' at the door.

She had her suspicions about the man, but there was never any real reason for her to make any investigation on him. And so, she greeted him and passed by him without another word. The office was silent for a bit while the Chosen got out of earshot.

"What were you able to find out?" the king asked him.

"Well, the hunters were cagey on their information, but they revealed enough to let us know that Sirius is safe for now. The rogues are converging within Lycaon and I don't know why yet. I have suspicions, but nothing definite," Sean reported, taking a seat beside the Mighty Warrior, "Morning, Silver."

"I am much more interested in the enthusiasm with which the young ones treat me. You're all boring," the hunter groaned.

"Yeah, the young ones... Just keep your hands off ours," the queen warned, "Sean, what about your other source? Have you been able to contact them to find out what they have to say about this whole situation?"

“No, I haven’t been able to reach that one in a while and it’s getting me on edge. You’ll be the first one to know when I get to know,” the royal replied, “The rogues that came from Brigadia are travelling fast. One might say that they have a target in mind. The hunters that are tailing them can tell that there is somewhere they are going. There is still a lot of ground to cover, so they can’t tell where it is that they are going.”

“Well, is the capital of Lycaon still part of their potential destinations?” Davin asked.

“Yes, the capital is still part of their destinations. However, the hunters have that place heavily guarded. Would the rogues really be that suicidal?” Sean asked him.

“I wouldn’t put it past them. They gathered a large number to retrieve a spy and lost many in numbers at the hands of the hunters there. If they are travelling as fast as you say and they have a very specific mission in mind, they might just invade the capital,” he said.

“That would be suicide. Two Mighty warriors are near the capital. They would lay waste to them if they dared to make a move that dumb,” Frank informed them.

The king furrowed his brows in thought, “I have a very bad feeling about this.” Ever since Katie had been attacked, nothing seemed to be going right. There was so much unease amongst those that were in power, “What do the Hunters have to say about one of their own shooting my daughter?”

This question was directed towards Frank Silver. He’d expected the king to eventually say something on the subject, but had hoped he wouldn’t be the one to provide that answer, “There have been reports of hunters working undercover as rogue hunters beside the rogue king. None of them know of the man’s appearance or his whereabouts. He’s a very slippery fellow...”

“I asked about Katie being shot by another hunter. The arrows were laced with wolfsbane and nearly killed her. I need an explanation for that,” the King cut him off. Martha rubbed circles in her husband’s back to calm him as this was neither the time nor the place for him to get angry. Not to mention the person he was directing his anger at. Frank had the power to bring down the werewolves in that room without breaking a sweat and they all knew it.

“That is what I was getting at... I know what the boy did was stupid, but the hunters refuse to accept him as a traitor. Doing that is going against Prometheus himself. You’re an eyewitness to his strength Prometheus gift. For now, I would like to think that he was only protecting his cover. Now that I think of it, he did give the princess a message in the forest although she was too angry to decipher it,” the man said.

“Are you saying Katie left something out in her narration?” the king’s anger seemed to vanish at the accusation.

“I’m only saying what happened. Before the boy ran from me, he shot a message arrow at the ground before the princess and there was a note inside it. It didn’t admit his intentions although it did confirm that he was watching her,” Frank confirmed.

“What did the note say?” the Queen asked him.

“It said, ‘Cole’s mark should look good on you. Can’t wait to see it.’ I don’t know what that was supposed to mean, but it definitely had the princess tearing up the paper. Does she know him or something?” the man asked.

“Well, I don’t know if the two were once friends. I do know that Jeremiah and his family came from Brigadia after he gave up on trying to be a hunter only to have him continue his training in the capital. Do you think the message had some hidden meaning?” the Queen spoke this time. She’d been the one who’d tended to the family when their child had risked his life to save Sean a long time ago. The royal was cruel enough to humour the boy’s heroic nature and only got surprised when he held up a good fight.

Not long after the incident, he’d then got his gift and intensified his training in the capital while his family was granted nobility under the kingdom of Sirius for his heroic actions.

“I would like to think there was meaning in what he said,” Frank replied, trying to drown information from his brain even though he came up with nothing.

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Katie sat on the bed in their room hugging a pillow while her mate paced about the room. She’d messed up and didn’t know what to tell him, ‘Curse that Mighty Warrior.’

“Don’t pin this on him,” the male before her argued. It was at times like this that Katie wondered if there was any privacy within the mind links. She almost asked, but realised Cole was far too angry to be bothered with something as insensitive as that. Ashley remained silent as well, watching the alpha pacing about the length of the room.

It was the first time Katie was realising she was late for school. After all those times she’d been tardy without having to worry about it, why did she care now? Just when Cole’s pacing became unbearable, she spoke up, “Are you going to keep walking about the room like that or are you going to say something, Cole?”

The werewolf stopped pacing and stared at her so intensely it made her feel like turning invisible. She let herself feel him through the bond they shared. He was a storm of emotions that she couldn’t process all at once, anger towards the rogues that had attacked her, anger towards her for jumping into danger, anguish at the possibility of losing her, “Katie, this is the third time...”

Who would have known that he’d been counting this whole time? Katie could remember what it had felt like when she thought she would lose him. it wasn’t an emotion she wanted to experience again, “This wasn’t the same thing, Cole. I didn’t...”

“Six arrows were aimed at your back. It only spells that you were facing danger once more,” the royal stopped his seemingly endless words and took a seat at the foot of the bed, burying his head in his hands, “What am I going to do, Katie? Every time I get to know that your life was in danger, I just lose it.”

The girl crept closer and placed her hand on his shoulder, “Cole, I’m right here, aren’t I? I’m safe.”

“Yes, you are...” he replied, holding her hand in his, “You were here yesterday as well. And now here you are. Between that time, your life was in danger. It makes having you here with me feel like a fleeting

moment. Frank said you were being watched by Jeremiah. I let you out of my sight and he attempts to take your life. You aren't to get out of my sight from now on," Cole's voice sounded more demanding at the end.

Katie was taken aback by the sudden change in his mood. She knew what he was trying to do. He wanted to protect her, but... "Isn't that taking it a bit too far, Cole?" she asked the royal.

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"I don't see how. I will be able to protect you if you don't get out of my sight," he said to her.

"Cole, that won't work. You need to..." the words were stuck in her throat. They both knew what she was about to say. It was getting harder to come across that kind of thing these days though and now that she had just tried.

"You're the last person I'd lose trust in Katie. That's not the problem," Cole replied.

"Then I'll make sure you always know where I am and you can decide if you want to come with me or not. You can also send me with Jason or Caden if it ever comes to it. How does that sound?" she tried.

"If I didn't know any better, I would say you were trying to get rid of me," Cole replied.

"No, that's not it," the girl chuckled, "I just don't want us to be weird. You're welcome to be at my side any time and you shouldn't be surprised if I cling to you every once in a while," she smiled. His emotions were starting to clear up. 'Oh, Cole, you're so sweet...' this she hoped he didn't hear and when he didn't react, she got curious. "How do I know what thought you'll hear and which one you won't hear?"

"Huh, oh, that's as simple as a choice. If you choose to hide something from the rest of the werewolves, then they will never know. Otherwise, every werewolf can know what you're thinking. And the more enthusiastic the thought is, the louder it gets. That way, the pack can always know what everyone is feeling. It's easier to know who is in pain in case of an emergency. Werewolves are quite social," he explained.

"No kidding..."

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Lina was bewildered when she heard what her friend was trying to tell her. Honour had been given a message to relay to the princess, but she hadn't known the girl's reaction would be this explosive, "What does she think she's doing? She'll cause a whole storm of problems at the school," the girl reacted.

"Oh dear, you really have no intention of going back to the den. Ever," Honour asked.

"No, I swore I would never go back there. Have you already forgotten what it was like the last time I was there," she asked the girl.

"I work with the cafeteria during my meals, remember," Honour tried. It was the reason she'd never known about the princess' status the first time they met. While the princess was mocked and ridiculed, Honour was only hearing rumours from her friends in the cafeteria kitchen and the gossiping werewolves that picked their food from the cafeteria.

“Oh, I’d almost forgotten. You’d never know what it was like. You weren’t there to witness them shame me in front of the whole pack,” Lina shivered at the memories while trying to put distance between herself and her best friend.

“Come on, Lina. It can’t be that bad. You don’t have to run to some restaurant in town every time you’re going to have lunch. It must get exhausting and lonely even for you.

“It’s better than having to walk through that place and have so many eyes on me. Talking behind my back and yet my hearing is good enough to hear each and every one of their conversations. You don’t know what that’s like, Honour,” the girl argued.

“No, I don’t and I don’t want you to have to go through it for the rest of your life. Where did that fire within you go? When you’re running, you don’t let anything faze you. You know who the alpha is. This is no different,” Honour said to her.

“That’s something totally different, Honour. It’s not the same and I won’t go through it...” she was just about to run away when Honour spoke yet again.

“You know, Katie is really looking forward to meeting you there. She even promised to beat every wolf that caused the least bit of trouble,” she said.

“That’s stupid. Royals aren’t allowed to command other wolves using their tone,” she argued.

“She said nothing about using her authority as a royal. That’s something else. Sandra also offered to teach you how to fight using your speed. That way you don’t have to run away all the time. You can be strong in your own way, Lina,” Honour offered her a hand. The girl nearly through the gates of the school, but her friend had stood with her to keep her from her depressing routine. It had been a long time since she’d done anything differently...

“Don’t you have to work in the cafeteria?”

“I told them that I might be a bit late today. You are more important to me, Lina,” she replied. Lina took the girl’s hand and followed her back to the school leading her to the Den. It had been years since she’d been here. ‘Katie, what are you thinking?’

The girl walked into the Den and the place went dead silent. Every nerve in her body asked that she bolted from the place. This was the last place she wanted to be in. What difference was coming here supposed to make to her? Was she supposed to suddenly act tough contrary to what she’d been doing this whole time? Honour led her till she reached the steps that led to the section for the royals, alphas and high ranking werewolves.

Unless she was allowed in by one of them or carrying their food, she wasn’t to proceed beyond that point. It’s just how it was and no one dared to question it. Lina knew this and forced her legs to move forward. For a wolf that was fast on her feet, walking felt very hard at the time, but she had to avoid showing weakness. The very thing that she was known for...

“The long table of high ranking werewolves remained silent. Katie turned to see her sister coming toward them. Her face beamed in happiness. In all honesty, she hadn’t thought Honour would be able to convince her that easily. Not for the first day at least. She’d planned to do this every day until Lina accepted after being nagged for too long. This was better.

Beckoning towards the chair at the end of the chair that had been vacant since their big brother's graduation, Katie smiled at the girl. Lina was stunned for a moment. Katie was older than her and yet she hadn't taken the seat. What was this supposed to mean? Looking at the other side of the chair, she noticed Cole Lycaon sitting comfortably with his alphas next to him. None of them was bothered by the fact that the seat was empty.

"You asked that I stay quiet as I watch this runt take a seat in the most important place on this table," Wyatt was the first to speak, "How am I supposed to stomach such a disgrace at this table?"

Lina took a step back only to bump into someone who she was sure wasn't there. She turned to see her sister blocking her exit. Looking back to Katie's seat, it was vacant. 'When...'

"Wyatt, one more filthy word out of you and you will know just how weak you are in comparison to a royal," Katie spoke up without sparing him another glance, 'Take your rightful seat at the table, sister. No one will stop you from taking it,' her sister's voice came through her mind.

"It's about time if you ask me," Derrick spoke up from his seat at the table.

This was all Lina needed to gain the confidence to take another step forward. Katie was a weirdo, but Derrick having her same opinion was something else. It only meant there were others that were as mean as Wyatt and Liam. Lina walked over to the luxuriously designed chair and took a seat. Honour smiled at her friend and entered, "What may I get you?" she asked her.

Lina was stunned for a moment before she spoke up, "Come on, Honour. You know me more than anyone. I'll let you decide," she said with a wink.

Her friend chuckled, "You're a junkie and I'm not. Do you really want to go with that choice of words?"

"Bring something healthy and you'll regret it, Honour," Lina hurriedly threatened.

Honour stared back shocked, "Very well. But just this once. It's not good for you." With that, the girl took orders from the rest of the high ranking wolves and walked off.

"And here I thought Honour would be invited here just like Sandra was," Liam spat.

"Oh cheer up, Liam. You know I wouldn't turn away the opportunity to serve someone more suitable for my services than you," Honour replied before anyone else.

The alpha stood up from his seat right only to freeze at the presence behind him. Katie stood behind him with a mischievous smile on her face, "Do you have something you want to say, Liam? I suggest we use our words."

The alpha's face went through a myriad of angry contortions before he took his seat, "No, it's nothing."

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The bell for the end of the last lesson finally went. Katie was still staring at the board at a discussion a student had decided to start with the teacher over a concept that he'd arguably understood differently after reading ahead. Watching the two of them try to reach the same conclusion had been fun for the hunter, but not for the rest of the class that had no idea what was going on. The student had clearly

read a more unorthodox method of reaching the conclusion, but the teacher wanted to set him straight and this seemed to drag on the lesson longer on one concept than it should have been.

Trevor had made a comment to arrest the boy for assaulting werewolf brains with his conflicting formulas that got the class laughing before the teacher continued to curb her lessons on the boy. Eventually, the lesson ended and here they were. An emptying class and a confused Jason later. Sandra helped her friend with the work he had not understood and Cole closed his books, leaving his work unfinished, "Hey, aren't you going to finish that?"

"No use... I've already understood. You barely write a thing. I don't see why I should have to," he complained, "School feels like such a waste of time when I think of the lives that we'll live afterwards."

"That's not exactly right," she told him, "But I know where you're coming from."

"So, I checked the database yesterday and turns out you check out. You're a hunter after all," Trevor's voice chipped in. The girl had tried to pretend she hadn't seen him approaching, but his presence was hard to miss.

"That is what I told you. What brings you here anyway?" she asked him.

"Why would you ask me such a question? You are a hunter, aren't you?" he scoffed.

Katie finally understood what he was meaning, "Yes, I am. And one that highly outranks you, junior hunter. What's your point?" Katie asked.

"Oh, are you suggesting you want the position of head of hunters? I'm not giving that up," Trevor quickly said.

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"Well then, I don't see why I should have to answer to any obligations you assume fall to me as well. You might want to change the way you manage your security though. Move with hunters around you only when you are also on patrol. Otherwise, you are only reducing the effectiveness of the hunters here. Or do you suddenly feel you have everything here under control?"

"As long as you and your new lot don't cause any trouble, there will be no trouble in this school. Is that understood?" he tried gaining ground over her.

Defiance shone through Katie's face for a moment before she decided this argument was not worth it, "Whatever... Are you done, Sandra?"

"Almost..." the junior hunter had been distracted by their discussion that her explanation had come to a pause. She proceeded with her explanation even though she was now sure Jason was just asking her these questions so that he could have some private time with her. He seemed to be getting the hang of everything faster than she thought he would, but she indulged him.

"What's her deal? What's a human doing hanging around werewolves?" Trevor was still here. Katie sighed and placed her head on the desk before her... 'This will never end. Kill me Cole...' the royal laughed at her antics.

"Is there a problem, officer?" Jason asked Trevor, speaking for Sandra.

"I was speaking to the lady. What are you, her mate?" Trevor spat. Jason was about to stand when Sandra held his shoulder and forced him back down.

"Katie is my mentor. Is there anything else you would like to know or is today's inspection over?" Sandra spoke so kindly that it got Katie to look up from her desk.

"So, you're a junior hunter. We have a meeting in a few," Trevor spoke up.

"Maybe not today, Trevor. I'll hold onto her for a bit. She'll help you out when she's free maybe. As of right now, she has quite the training to go through," Katie spoke up.

The head hunter scoffed at the group and walked away shaking his head in disappointment, his henchmen right behind him. "Do you think that was the last time we are going to hear of him?"

"No, I'm afraid not," Katie replied.

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"Do you really have to go?" Cole held on to the girl. Katie had just dressed up for her training with the Mighty warrior. However, her mate was not liking the thought of having a Mighty Warrior hammer more hours of training into his beautiful mate, "He's going to torture you. I can already imagine the wicked smile on his face while he makes you go through hell," the man complained.

"Now you are being overly dramatic. Do you want him to put me through more hell for being late?" Katie complained, although secretly loving the attention.

"If it's okay with you, would you stay just a little longer? The hell will be worth it then," he whispered.

"Ah, that is evil of you," Katie hit the man playfully with a pillow. Cole had her pinned down and once more in this unfair world of werewolves, she found herself utterly powerless against him. Asking nicely seemed to be the only way out of this one. Cole chuckled but showed no sign of letting her go. Instead, he snuck a kiss into the crook of her neck, her ultimate weakness, "Cole, how about you escort me to the training grounds then? That way, we shall part much later than you would like and I wouldn't be late to my first ever training session with one of the four Mighty Warriors."

Fortunately, this reasoning reached the royal and he reluctantly let his mate up from the bed, holding her in his arms and setting her down like glass. 'Charmed, I'm sure,' Ashley piped in with the richest British accent she could manage. "Shall we?" Cole asked the girl.

"Yeah, sure," the royal offered to take her to the training grounds riding on his back claiming it would save her the energy she would need during her training. Her guts, however, told her this was a big mistake, but how could she say no to the man pleading before her. And with all the times she had enjoyed riding on the back of the black wolf, how could she deny the opportunity to experience that once again.

Before she knew it, she was atop the back of a massive black wolf racing through the woods at maximum speed with the wind whipping through her hair. It was a liberating feeling that she still enjoyed to this day. Whether she was running in her human form using her gift or in her wolf form or even when Cole ran with her on his back, she enjoyed every second she spent at high speed. She didn't

understand how the werewolves would come to oppress one of their own who had been blessed with the chance to experience what she could.

Alas, her joyride came to an end. The faster and more enjoyable it was, the quicker it would end. A detail that she did not like herself. Frank was found pacing about the field with a scowl on his face. When he noticed a black wolf bringing the person he was supposed to be training, his face went red, "You're late."

"I know I know and I'm sorry. I didn't mean to come..." she paused when she saw Lina and Sandra going through intense sparring drills on the other side of the clearing, "...late. I didn't mean to come.... How long have those two been here?"

"They got here thirty minutes ago. Mr Lycaon, would you try to refrain from detaining my student when I set a time for her to train," Frank barked at the wolf. The black wolf bowed in respect to the man and walked to the side of the clearing settling in the shade cast by the shadows of the trees that bordered the clearing. Katie realised he was here to stay. The words she'd heard that morning echoed through her mind and brought a smile to her face, "What are you smiling about?"

"Oh, nothing. What are we starting with, 'master'? That word leaves a bitter taste in my mouth," Katie pretended to cringe as though she'd bitten into a lemon.

"Well, if it's so bad, then you might want to call, O Great and Powerful Apollo... You know, because I'm the greatest," the man joked.

"I don't think that specific god would be too happy with being impersonated. Cupid might be a better name..."

"Oh, you know me too well. Cupid will work just fine, dearie," the man retrieved the quiver on his back and unfurled his pink custom bow. We'll start with boosting your agility. I'll tone down my speed and work you up. I hope you're ready. Jim told me you're fast. I just hope you've got the speed to back such high praise from a mighty warrior," Before Katie could get ready, an arrow whizzed right for her. She quickly tapped into her gift and dodged it, however, that was not the end of the assault.

"Good thing you brought a ride. You won't need your legs to go back home," Frank added, firing three arrows in quick succession before Katie had the chance to recover. 'Wait, what...' The girl thought as the arrows came straight for her. She quickly cartwheeled out of the way, but her senses told her she had far more arrows coming her way. A simple evasion of the three didn't mean a thing. Her muscles burned from the strain that came from no rest. 'He's going to kill me...' Katie mentally whined, getting on her feet to flee the arrows that followed her, whizzing past her too close for her liking.

"The only way you'll be able to pass this training is if you can get the bow from me. I won't go all out because that would make this impossible, but don't think I'll fight you at a level below that of Jeremiah," the man finished the instructions, short and simple. But Katie also knew there was no way she could get to him at her current speed. She could barely dodge the barrage of arrows that threaten to fill her with holes. That was how Katie's training with the Mighty Warrior, Frank Silver began. It wasn't a walk in the park.

Lina Sirius of the Sirius empire found she still had some pride left when the human began to tell her what to do. It was annoying to be tutored by someone her wolf viewed as weak before her. To be honest, though, her wolf hadn't come off as proud in a long time and Lina didn't ward off the pompous attitude when it came. It was a breath of fresh air. What was left was to grow stronger through whatever means Katie kept trying to tell her off.

Sandra was shaky at first, but upon noticing the royal's will to learn more from her, she chose to do her best to teach her everything that she could. She was glad to find that the wolf was as flexible as she was quick. Well, she had to be if she was going to learn the manoeuvres that were going to be taught. At her request, Jason accepted to help them out. He was going to serve as an opponent for them to work with. He would have rejected the offer if it had been anyone else, but Sandra who had asked, but alas, he had a weak spot for the junior hunter.

Much as he showed up much later than he was supposed to, they were glad he was around. Lina found the different tactics she was being taught to be difficult at first, but when she would look to the side where her sister was training against a lunatic who kept shooting her with arrows, she would get motivated to keep working. Once in a while, Jason would get distracted by the training that was taking place in the other group in the clearing. It was just unbelievable to watch someone try to outrun arrows that were fired at a rate that was equally astonishing.

Lina, despite her efforts, was not able to pin the alpha, even though he noticed her improvement, "You know Jason. It would help for you to lower your guard a little bit so that Lina could know she was doing the right thing," a voice interrupted them. Cole sat in the shade of a tree not far from them.

"Alpha Cole, I'll try to lower my guard then," Jason answered immediately.

"No, I don't want you to lower your guard. You're an alpha. I want to know I'll go against an alpha and win," Lina yelled, dropping to the ground, completely exhausted.

"Would you like me to teach you how to use a weapon instead?" Sandra asked.

"No, I don't want to hurt an alpha in that way. Just to make them submit and that wouldn't happen if I used a weapon. We'll continue this training. If it means I can overpower someone like Wyatt, I'll keep at it until I get it right," her voice shone with determination as she spoke.

"Very well," Cole replied, "Jason can stay the way he was then."

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Sandra demonstrated the moves again and pinned Jason as expertly as she was meant to. However, every time Lina tried, it wasn't the same result. Cole could tell the royal was making quick progress, but whether it was Jason she was supposed to use as a training dummy or it was her lack of body strength that hindered her success remained to be discovered.

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Katie had been going at it for longer than she cared to admit. The Mighty Warrior was toying with her. No matter what she tried, the arrows flew straight into her face no matter what she tried. She was trying everything she could. Whenever she chose to go in for Frank, he would quickly predict her next positions and bar her progress. She was simply too slow for his quick bow.

She continued to go at it without holding back, "You know... Jim said something I couldn't believe. She said you were able to release one of those thunderclaps. You know, when a hunter runs so fast they break the sound barrier and cause that awfully loud noise to erupt."

Katie knew what he was talking about and she remembered how exhausted the ordeal had left her. Given her tiring state, speaking was not something she could handle. Frank noticed this and closed his bow, "Let's take five. I need to ask you about that..."

Katie collapsed onto her knees, finally sealing the access of her agility gift. Exhaustion set in quickly and she was immobilised for three minutes while she tried to regain her breath. Frank hadn't noticed how hard he'd been pushing the girl and now that she was recovering, he couldn't help but feel sorry for her, "Why didn't you tell me I was pushing you too hard?"

"I have to get stronger. There is no shortcut for that kind of thing," she replied.

"I didn't become a Mighty Warrior by drying myself closer to death with each training session," the man argued.

"I don't have as much time as you did. I know it. I feel it. The danger that's creeping closer. I am told of the whereabouts and movements of the rogues, but everywhere I turn, I feel like I'm getting closer and closer to him... The Rogue King. I don't have much time before I will meet him. I have to get stronger," she explained.

'So this is the same fighting spirit that the first hunters had,' the man thought to himself as he stared at the girl resting on the ground. She was something else. He didn't think there was someone who would keep pushing themselves with no complaints. It was dangerous and he didn't like it. The times when hunters had to push limits just to gain power over the werewolves were gone, but... 'So that's what it means to be the one to bring this war to its end,' it was now that he could see what the Thunderclap saw in the girl.

"Do you still remember how you were able to achieve the thunderclap back in Brigadia?" the man asked her, half-hoping she would say no. When she'd come to him for training that evening, he'd known what he was going to do, but now he was just following through the motions.

"Yeah, I still remember. What about it?"

"Well, you are going to have to do that for me once here. After that, we'll call it a day. I am going to fire an arrow at that tree when you are ready... Your goal for now... is to run faster than it," Frank said, getting up and unfurling his bow. Tears stung his eyes as he gave her his orders. 'I'm sorry, Katie. I know this might be asking too much of you, but I know what you are trying to achieve... and you can't get that the easy way.'

Katie got up from the ground and stretched her limbs. Exhaustion racked her body and she wasn't sure she could achieve what this man was trying to make her do. However, she knew what she was required to do. It wasn't easy, but she had to do it if she was going to have any hope of becoming as strong as she needed to in order to put an end to this war. Cole had taken his attention off her and that calmed her. This wasn't something he would have approved of, but she had to try. Or at least that's what she told herself.

“Well, are you ready?” Silver asked her.

“I have to gather energy from my gift first. I can’t just go that fast without getting ready for it,” she explained.

“Oh, alright, take all the time you need,” Frank answered, holding the arrow he was about to shoot. To pass the time, he picked arrows that were embedded in the ground around them and returned the ones that were broken back into his quiver.

Katie got into a ready position and took a deep breath, gathering all the power she could from her gift. Frank reached for an arrow when an odd draft of wind blew past. The wind went utterly still. He could feel it caused by the gathering of immense energy. This wasn’t normal in the slightest. He turned to notice Katie crouching, ready to unleash the full power of her gift in one go. ‘So that’s why it’s so draining. You don’t even know that it doesn’t need that much power. That thunderclap you released must have been loud that day,’ the man chuckled to himself.

“I am going to fire my arrow now. Your mission is to go faster than it. If you want to make it more interesting. You can catch the arrow yourself,” the man, letting the arrow he’d nocked in the blink of an eye dart off in a random direction.

There was a moment of silence when he’d just fired his arrow. A moment so short he could call it that it was only Frank who noticed it. After that, a thunderclap boomed through the forest scaring birds out of the trees and shaking the capital. There wasn’t a cloud in the sky and yet, the sound of thunder could be heard for miles.

A tempest of wind followed the girl’s success, blinding Frank in the process as it kicked up so much dust. When the dust had cleared. Katie lay by the treeline, holding his arrow. Well, that was before she collapsed and went unconscious. “Well, you did come with a ride,” the man mumbled.

Cole was at her side in an instant. Checking her vitals, he could tell she was fine. Sighing in relief, he allowed anger to follow, “Just what were you thinking? You know that could have killed her,” he yelled at the man.

“It wouldn’t have and you know it...” before the words could get to the alpha’s mind, he had slammed the pink-clad archer against a tree, “I would calm down if I were you. I am training your mate to be stronger so that you don’t have to worry about protecting her.”

“I can protect her just fine,” Cole growled at him, “You can join the list of things I have to protect her against.”

“You will do well to know who you are talking to,” the man spoke, keeping his voice calm. However, the anger in Cole’s mind wouldn’t dissipate. He wanted this man to be put in his right place for pushing his mate too far beyond her limit.

“I don’t give a damn who you are. You don’t get to walk away after doing that to my mate. Or did something happen to your ears when the thunderclap rang too close to you?” the royal’s eyes shone a bright blue. His wolf was angry as well and this wasn’t something he could simply let go of.

Lina was in the middle of sparring with Sandra. Sweat glistened on their bodies showing the thin film of sweat that covered the two females. Jason had been sidelined by the royal claiming he was simply impossible to beat. This didn't mean she had given up on beating him, but the girl was curious about her new master. She wanted a chance to fight the junior hunter and know the quality of someone that was being trained by Katie Sirius.

"Come on, human. Aren't you tired yet? We've been going at this for quite some time. Don't you feel tired? Your knees aching for the relief of having to sit down," she tried, going in for another attempt at restraining her master. Sandra had allowed her to attack whenever she felt like it. The aim was to move as swiftly as she could and take advantage of the flexibility she had been exercising.

Sandra leapt back just enough to dodge the kick. Lina could tell this was calculated to counter her and back away before Sandra got the chance to. For a second, Lina could have sworn the junior hunter had an evil smirk on her face, "Good reflexes. How did you know you were done for?"

"Oh, shut up," the wolf replied. This time it was Sandra that attacked. The junior hunter was not slow, but Lina was starting to keep up. Her improvement was visible for those that had been present through their entire training session. She sidestepped the girl's attack and moved in, keeping track of Sandra's entire body. 'It was almost too easy. The girl was wide open... Just as Lina was about to make the first successful hit on her master since the start of this training session, the booming sound of thunder reached her ear.

This was followed by a tempest of wind and dust that forced the trio to shield their eyes. Jason was by their side almost immediately, shielding them from the source of the dust. "What's that?" Lina shouted at the top of her voice. Her ears were ringing in her head. It was at times like this that she didn't want to be a royal.

"It's a thunderclap," Sandra replied.

"I know that but there isn't a cloud in the sky," if it hadn't been for the girl's werewolf hearing, she wouldn't have heard Sandra's reply over the ringing in her head. And she didn't even know she was yelling out loud. Jason held on to Sandra even after the tempest of wind had settled.

"Are you okay?" he asked her.

"Yes, I'm fine. Jim Gordon's thunderclap is not that loud. I know one other person that would make something that loud," the junior hunter rushed, getting out of Jason's grip to look for her friend. Katie was the only other person she knew that was capable of a thunderclap. Looking back to the others that were training with them, they saw what looked like Cole pinning Frank Silver... "This is bad."

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Frank Silver was reaching his limit of tolerance for the wolf holding him. He possessed the strength Prometheus gift and this royal was just an annoyance to him. Nonetheless, he knew the reason for his anger. After all, he hadn't wanted to put the girl through all that himself. Everything he asked her to do, she would comply without a complaint even though it was well beyond her abilities.

When the royal had attacked him, he hadn't resisted, but now that there was no reasoning with him, he was getting more inclined to use force. "Cole, let him go," Lina's voice cut through their tense staring contest.

"Not after I have his word that he's to stay away from her," Cole's voice came cold.

"Jason, do something. Tell him that he's gone berserk," Lina tried, but the alpha was frozen at the sight. In fact, he looked like he was ready to back his alpha if it came to it.

Frank was now at his limit. There was no way he was backing away from the mission he'd been given. He'd seen potential in the girl. He was sure of what the Thunderclap had told him. All the Mighty Warriors knew what it took to get the power they possessed. The amount of training they had to go through, but Katie wasn't like them. She had the potential to quickly amass power that trumped them and a measly royal was not going to keep him from getting her there.

Tapping into his strength Prometheus' gift, he pushed the royal away from him. Cole wasn't surprised when the push came. He was thrown a few metres before landing on his feet right in front of Jason. The alpha growled at the hunter, but Cole raised his hand to stop him. Frank was quick to unfurl his bow and with it, he aimed an arrow at the alpha, "Think about what you're doing. If it comes to it, I won't be opposed to shooting your joints and immobilising you until you come to your senses."

The royal only smirked, "You're welcome to try." With that said, he ran at the man. The fastest bow had been aimed at him and yet he still pushed forward, 'What's with this couple?' Frank mused as he let four arrows loose from his bow. To his surprise, they merely scratched the royal and the wounds they caused were gone in an instant. The wolf collided with him, slamming him into the tree at the back... 'Right where you had me...'

The Warrior recovered and pushed the royal off him once more, but this time, Cole wasn't pushed as far as he'd expected. Frank's training kicked in and he delivered a fist to the man's cheek. Adrenaline in their systems, the two males were not pulling any punches. To his surprise, Cole was barely moved by the punch. The next blows were aimed at the hunter. Even after guarding against them, he felt the pain from the fists that were thrown.

Sandra wanted to stop them, but she hadn't expected what she was watching to happen. Cole wasn't fazed one bit by the overwhelming strength the man had and he was returning attacks that rivalled the mighty warrior himself. Frank had thrown his bow away after realizing he wasn't going to be able to use it against the wolf. His skin was nearly impenetrable and he healed too fast.

"Cole, that's enough," Lina tried yelling. If he hadn't been a royal, she would have broken their laws and used her royal tone against him, but this wasn't going to work on him. Cole was stronger than her.

"That won't work. You know royals rarely get angry. If Cole is going on a rampage, there is only one thing that can stop him," Jason mentioned. Lina's memory finally caught up. It was as he'd just said. Royals had the most control over their wolf sides. Cole was beyond their reach and from what they were watching.

"What if Frank doses him with wolfsbane? The man could kill him or put him in hospital," Lina argued.

“That’s not exactly true. Cole is immune to wolfsbane and his skin is built like a tank. His body absorbs more shock than that of an average wolf. He could just as easily overpower Frank,” Jason provided information, but he looked unable to do anything to stop the fight that was happening before them. At this rate, it was only a matter of time before he went feral and ripped his target into pieces. The more Frank resisted the wolf, the angrier it would get.

There was only one more thing that they could do. Lina looked about the clearing and finally spotted her sister. Katie lay a distance from them, unconscious. The girl gasped at the sight, ‘So that’s what got Cole angry. This all makes sense now,’ she realised.

Wasting no more time, she ran to the girl and began to shake her awake. “Come on, Katie. Wake up. Cole needs you,” she called to the girl. Through the mind link and physically. Whatever could get to her first was what she needed to use. However, the girl continued to sleep. “Come on... If you don’t wake up, one of them is going to die. If you don’t stop this, something bad will happen.”

To the girl’s surprise, her face began to change as a transformation she’d seen recently took over her. Snow white fur curled around her face and dropped down her forehead in an arrow that reached her nose getting less the more it reached the tip. Bright blue eyes fluttered open. There wasn’t a sign of the hunter, “My name is Ashley. Katie won’t be able to wake up in a while. How can I help?”

“You’re here...”

“Wolf, yes. That I am...” the wolf smiled sheepishly, exposing a set of sharp fangs.

“Never mind, hurry up and help Cole. He’s about to go feral,” she helped the wolf up and led her to the fight that was taking place.

Ashley watched with an expressionless face as Cole continued fighting in her name. She wanted to do a variety of things Katie wouldn’t have done, including requesting the wolf’s mark, but that wasn’t what Katie would have done. She’d already betrayed Katie’s trust once. She wasn’t about to do it again, “Cole...” she called out to him.

Frank noticed the girl’s presence and chose this moment to put distance between himself and the angry royal. Dashing in time to miss yet another painful fist, he grabbed his bow, unfurled it and shot an arrow into a tree in the forest. Cole was not as fast as he wanted as the man was swinging away from him using the elastic cord the arrow had released. Ashley was in front of him before he could take another step.

The male stopped right in front of his mate. Her scent overwhelmed his senses, “Cole, I’m here. You don’t have to keep fighting him. I’m safe here with you, aren’t I?” The words were like needles to the male, but they reached him. Her presence was an injustice to the rage that he felt. Slowly, he embraced the girl before him. “Yes, you’re safe as long as you’re with me...” he replied. Frank fell from the tree he was in, breathing out. His face was bloodied more than he would have liked and he had aches in places he didn’t think he could...

“What the hell are you two made of?” he yelled out angrily.

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Lina ran up to the Mighty Warrior, “Frank, are you okay?”

“Yeah, I’m fine. Just haven’t received a beating of that level in quite some time. It’s like I was fighting a brick wall,” the man groaned, turning his hands to reveal the wounds that had formed on his knuckles. Something about the man’s hands looked wrong, but Lina couldn’t quite put her finger on it, “He feels next to nothing. I don’t know if it happens when he’s angry or if he’s always like that.”

“I’m sorry for his...” the man raised his hand to silence the girl.

“You don’t need to apologise. I should have handled that situation more professionally. I might have gotten ahead of myself when I underestimated him,” he admitted.

“That’s very high praise coming from you,” Lina replied, helping the man up.

“Yeah, I haven’t had a fight like that in years. Maybe against my fellow peers,” he replied only to go completely still at the sight of Cole. The wolf was still staring at him. His eyes didn’t leave him, but he didn’t attack with Katie in front of him. After hugging the girl tight, his eyes closed and he seemed to relax with her around.

Ashley was glad he was calming down. She knew he was not yet aware of the change in his mate just yet. He needed to calm down first before she could reveal that Katie was still unconscious. The girl had used too much energy that she hadn’t been able to stay awake and waking her seemed to be a problem even for the wolf.

“Cole, are you okay, now?” Jason asked him.

“Yeah, I’m fine,” Cole replied, before lifting his mate up and starting the walk back to the palace

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“Alpha Cole, wait,” Frank called back to him. Cole merely stopped walking and stayed quiet. Taking this as a sign that he should speak, he continued, “Don’t stop her from continuing her training with me.”

Cole was quiet for a moment before he answered him, “I’ll think about it.” With that said, the wolf was gone through the forest. His top priority was his mate and there was nothing else he was focused on.

“It won’t always be like this you know,” Ashley tried. It was only then that Cole noticed the girl’s half shift. The half shift was usually possible when both entities were present, but why couldn’t he feel his mate’s human side. Her defiant nature was gone from her and she leaned more into him without any of her adorable resistance. She didn’t offer any of her witty remarks. He remembered the wolf he’d seen within her when she was in her comma.

“So we meet again. I didn’t get your name the last time,” he said to the wolf, placing her down when they’d put some distance between them and the others. He shifted into his massive black wolf and allowed the girl onto his back before dashing forward, the destination set.

“My name is Ashley,” she replied.

“Is your name a coincidence?” he asked.

“No, it’s not. The moon goddess chose me because I would be the wolf Katie would accept without any resistance. She doesn’t know the details because I was never meant to tell them to her. It would mess with her relationship with Caden seeing as he was attached to my former life,” she explained.

“And you remember your former life?” Cole asked.

“No, I don’t. I only know what the moon goddess told me before I was sent on her birthday. The same day when all wolves mature,” she explained, “The rest is what Katie knew about the girl and what Caden told us that day in the hospital.”

“Oh, I see. So you’re the reason she has much clearer emotions now,” the wolf chuckled, “How is she?”

“She’s unconscious. She’ll be okay as long as she gets some rest,” Ashley replied. Cole was glad she was fine, but wasn’t sure what he was supposed to think about the man that had put her in that state. The thunderclap this time was even louder than the one she’d released when she was saving Anthony’s wife. It was no doubt the man was going to teach her to make that kind of thing normal and Cole didn’t know what to think of it.

Sandra’s words came back to her. Katie was bound to train harder now that she knew she wasn’t strong enough to defeat the Rogue King. It wasn’t a life he wanted to watch her drown into. What would happen after the Rogue King was defeated? Would she continue training? She wouldn’t know what to do then. Cole wanted to see her capable of letting go and having fun like the time they’d gone out to the city.

“Protect her, Ashley. She’s got more recklessness than I’ve ever thought possible,” Cole beseeched the wolf. His emotions went through the bond they shared and ensnared the girl’s wolf, seizing the embers of defiance that shone within her.

“I’ll do what I can...”

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Sandra held Jason back when he tried to follow the couple, “Let them go. They need time alone.”

“Aren’t you...”

“Worried about my best friend...? Yes, yes I am, but Cole knows the best for her right now. I had the chance to witness that when she was paralyzed. He did everything to make her forget her shortcomings. To forget her failure. There is nothing that wolf won’t do for her,” she replied, “And neither of us can top that right now.”

“Frank, you need to see a doctor. Your injuries,” Lina tried to convince the pink-clad man. Frank Silver was starting to feel all the effects of the hits he’d taken during his scuffle with the royal and was even staggering when he tried to walk.

“I’m fine. I can’t be that injured by a werewolf. Only the head of the Chase family can inflict... Ouch, that hurts,” the man winced in a high pitched voice when Lina touched one of the few bad bruises on his face. She got a towel from within her sweatshirt and gave him to wipe himself.

Finally conceding, Frank sighed, “Damn it... What’s that alpha made of?”

“It’s one of the perks of being a Chosen of the Moon goddess. He adapted to many things and that’s how he ended up like that. Indestructible... The only people that give him trouble are his father’s beta alphas. Other than them, I’ve never seen a wolf best him in a fight,” Jason replied.

"I have heard of the power of beta alphas, but if they are anything like him, then I don't want to have to fight any. I hope these don't leave scars," the man winced. They started the walk back to the palace.

"Oh, don't worry. You will be just fine if you don't irritate them too much," Lina replied, scanning him once more to make sure he wasn't worse than she'd assessed.

"Did Katie really learn how to reach the Thunderclap's speed?" Sandra's voice filled the air. Everyone went quiet for a moment. Jason knew what she was like when she watched her mentor reach even new heights. It pained him every time to watch her feel inadequate. He had tried to explain that she wasn't supposed to be comparing herself with Katie and for a moment she seemed past it. After what had happened that day, he wasn't so sure anymore.

"Yeah, she did. I didn't think she would do it at first, but that was before I knew how good she was at pushing herself past her limit. It's like she doesn't feel the pain of having to push past your limit. The effort that it takes to stress your body past its breaking point. She breaks past it like it's nothing and shoots up with untethered. She was exhausted when I asked her to do it," the man explained.

Shivers ran through Sandra when she imagined what her mentor was like. She'd watched her growing up and this shouldn't have surprised her, but it did. It was simply impossible to get used to watching Katie push past her limits, "An even bigger gap..."

"One that you will close with time," Jason pulled her into a side hug, "Until then, lean on your friends. You know we are always here for you and so is Katie."

"I know," Sandra replied, leaning into the man's warmth. The cold evening wind had begun to blow through the forest. It was getting dark and the stars were already out, spreading out over the navy blue canvas, twinkling with a mesmerizing brilliance.

"Are you two a couple?" Lina asked at the same time as Frank.

"No..." "Yes..." Sandra and Jason replied at the same time.

"Come on, Jason. How long are you going to insist on us being a couple?" the junior hunter groaned.

"Until the moon goddess herself tells me to back off," the man boasted. Sandra rolled her eyes at his confidence.

"You're impossible," she sighed. However much she tried to swat his claims over her, he was relentless. There was nothing she could say to sway his decision on the matter. Secretly though, she wished she was the one for him. He was loving and cared for her. She'd seen the king and queen. She'd seen Cole and Katie. And she was starting to get envious. 'Does taking advantage of his kindness make me a bad person?' she would ask herself.

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Cole reached the palace with Katie or Ashley in this case. The wolf was getting sleepy from having to be in control of Katie's human body. It was easier when she was in her wolf form. This exhausted her when Katie was not awake. It was like she wasn't where she was supposed to be. Eventually, she'd told the massive black wolf that she was going to retreat. By the time Cole had reached the castle, the wolf was

fast asleep and he had to carry her to their bedroom. He had no problem with this... In fact, he enjoyed his display of dominance over the girl. It told the other males to keep away.

The guards at the gate saw him and immediately informed the king of their arrival. Pack warriors surrounded them the moment they were inside the gates, "What is the meaning of this?" Cole asked them in a serious tone.

"The king has ordered his daughters to be found and brought to him immediately. After hearing the sound of the thunderclap and failing to contact Katie Sirius, he became worried and ordered they be found," one of the wolves explained.

"Very well. I will go and see the king right..."

"That will not be necessary," Davin's voice boomed from the grand stairway. He descended the stairs to meet them in the courtyard. The pack warriors let him through so that he could reach them, "Cole, what happened?"

"Frank pushed her past her limit and she passed out," Cole explained.

"Take her to the infirmary..."

"No, send the physician to check up on her in our room. I won't have her sleep in a hospital bed," Cole replied. There were a few gasps at the defiance in Cole's voice. It wasn't common or even heard of for a wolf to defy the king.

After thinking it through, the king conceded, "Very well. I have to ask though. Why do I smell blood on you? I know it's not your blood?"

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"It's Frank's," Cole shrugged, "I might have lost my mind a little..."

"A little, huh. Is he okay? Of course, he's okay. I'm only wondering where your injuries are," Davin asked.

"They healed," Cole replied. There was silence in the courtyard as they interpreted what the man had just said. Queen Martha was the first one to interfere with the gathering.

"What are you all standing there for? Cole, take her where she can have proper rest. I know you like holding her, but that's not exactly a bed, you know," the queen raised her voice just enough for everyone to hear her while she rushed out of the palace doors. It was the first time the woman had ever raised her voice in Cole's presence. She wasn't yelling either...

Nodding in appreciation, Cole was gone from the courtyard as quickly as he could. The king disbanded the pack warriors and sent them back to their former assignments considering he knew where his other daughter was. The nagging feeling of being followed left Cole when he realised the girl's parents were not going to leave her side until they were sure of her condition and so he let them follow him. It was not like he could have refused them from accessing any part of their castle as they wished anyway.

"What happened, Cole? I felt Katie go dark through the mind link and couldn't reach her even if I tried," the king asked him. His voice was filled with concern for his daughter.

“Frank pushed her past her limit and she collapsed,” Cole replied briefly.

“Was that the loud boom we heard?” the queen asked him, remembering a similar event from a while ago.

“Yes, that was it. I didn’t even think she could do that again until Frank asked her to,” Cole explained, finally reaching the door. The king pushed forward and opened the doors to the room. Cole placed the girl in the bed and sat by her side, finally turning to face the King and Queen. The queen walked over to the other side of the bed and took a seat by the bed.

“What about Lina?”

“Lina was training with Sandra. She’s doing well. They stayed behind to tend to Frank. Or at least that’s what I think they did,” Cole replied, tucking a stray strand of his mate’s hair to the back of her ear.

“Well, that does sound like kind caring Lina. When she’s not watching that gadget of hers, of course. How bad was the fight between you and Frank?” the queen asked. Her inquisitive mood was not giving as Cole hoped it would. Something told him she was going to keep asking until she had all the answers she was looking for.

Just then, a woman reached the door and knocked, even though it was still open. She was dressed in a lab coat with borderline decent wear beneath, a stethoscope draped over her shoulders. She had a kind expression and two nurses followed her with a trolley of the equipment she needed to tend to the girl. Bowing, “You called for me, your majesties.”

“Come in, Doctor Caitlin,” the queen came in. Cole left his side of the bed and gave the doctor the space she needed to tend to his mate.

“Careful. She’s fragile,” he added.

The doctor, making a quick assessment of the girl before her, “This girl is far from fragile.”

“You haven’t answered my question, Cole,” the queen spoke up. Cole mentally groaned. Whether it was curiosity or intuition, Cole had no idea how her woman was able to tell that he was hiding something.

“Fine, it was an ugly fight. We fought. Exchanged deadly blows. He tried to shoot me at some point and my wolf nearly went feral against him,” Cole blurted everything out.

The queen was barely fazed by his outburst, “That’s the short version. Now calm down and tell me everything.” Queen Martha tapped the part of the bed beside her beckoning for Cole to take a seat beside her. The male gave up and sat beside her, starting the entire story from the beginning.

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Lina had been walking with this group for a little while in silence when the king contacted her, “Lina where are you? Katie went silent. Do you know what happened to her?”

“Calm down, Father. Cole is bringing Katie back to the palace right now. I don’t know if she’s fine. Something happened during her training. I believe Cole will be in a better position to tell you everything though considering he watched everything as it happened,” she responded.

“Very well then,” her mother pitched in, “We’ll ask him when he arrives. Your father thought it was best to deploy a search for the girl before he thought to contact you. Honestly, Davin goes overboard when it comes to his daughters,” the queen commented.

“Don’t worry about me, mother. I am fine. I’m actually returning with Frank right now,” Lina replied. She looked to the right and found that the man was beginning to stagger. His eyelids could no longer hold steady and he was reaching his limit. Redirecting her focus to the pack doctor, she immediately called out for help and gave directions to where the man was to be found.

“Jason, help me hold him,” she called out to the alpha.

“No, I’m fine,” Frank tried to complain when they held him. Just the day before, Lina had been in that exact position and the Mighty Warrior couldn’t help but think of the irony of the situation.

“Oh, quit complaining,” Lina snapped at him.

“Have you contacted him?” Jason asked.

“Yes, I did. We should take him to Honour’s flower shop. It’s nearer from here and the pack doctor has sent one of her assistants to help out. Hopefully, it’s not too serious. Just how hard were these guys going at it.

“How do you know the flower shop is open?” Jason asked her, picking up the pace with Sandra in tow. The girl soon noticed the strain the royal was under and switched with her.

“Because I can’t contact her. That’s how I know she’s at the shop,” the answer was only more confusing, but she was confident of what she was saying and that was enough for Jason.

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Honour was browsing through the flowers on the shelves, thinning and making last touches before she closed up shop. It was just another day at work. The phone at the reception rang and the girl rushed to pick it up. “Blue Rose flower shop, how may I...”

“Honour honey, would you make sure to water the roses please?” her mother’s sweet voice came through from the other side.

“Mother, did you have to say that over the phone? You could have used the mind link, you know,” the girl groaned, picking up the watering can and walking up to the roses.

“Not when you are tending to flowers. You tend to block out the entire pack’s mind link when you’re doing that. Have you finished closing up shop? You need to get back home before it gets too late,” the woman’s voice came through to her.

“I’ll be done soon, mother. Don’t worry,” she replied before turning off the phone. Her short moment of peace was interrupted by a loud banging at the front entrance. The girl rushed over and gasped at the state of her visitors. Lina was standing beside alpha Jason and Sandra who held a beaten man dressed in the pinkest male outfit she’d ever laid her eyes on.

She opened the door quickly and let them in asking the one question that came to mind before hearing anything else Lina had to say, “What happened?”

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The pack doctor finished her check-up of the girl and stood up to make her report, "The girl is alive and well. She has used up plenty of energy. Much more than she should have been capable of using. She'll need nourishment when she wakes up, so make sure she gets all the food she can eat. I would advise that she doesn't go to school tomorrow if she hasn't regained her strength by then.

The muscles in her body have been torn more than I would like to see in anyone that's undergoing training and those are going to hurt like hell when she wakes up. Other than that, she will be fine. Nothing a good sleep and a good meal can't fix," the doctor reported.

"Thank you very much," the queen replied, casually dismissing the doctor, "If I may ask, has Lina contacted you."

"Yes, she has. I sent an assistant to tend to her patient, but I will go there now to make sure everything is in order," the doctor replied before walking out in a hurry. Her assistants rolled out the trolley to try and keep up, shutting the door behind them as they left.

"What happened with Lina?" Cole asked.

"I'm not sure. She cut us off before we could ask, but my guess is that Frank is not looking so good," the king replied.

"I probably shouldn't have snapped the way I did. Frank might be strong and swift with a bow, but his body is more fragile than I thought. I don't even know how someone gets that strong without getting battle-hardened," Cole replied.

"Well, he is the fastest archer, so, aside from the calluses on his hands, he might have never had to get into a fight. Even if he did, he probably set standards that wouldn't get him hurt," the queen explained.

"Let's just hope that he pulls through just fine. We might end up with a crisis on our hands," the king sighed. 'It's been long since a wolf gave a hunter that much of a beat down. It could weaken the alliance between the two races,' Davin thought, allowing his thoughts to reach his wife.

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'Don't go there, Davin. We know the Mighty Warriors are built sturdy. He will pull through and probably then we can know who was wrong to hit the other and have this all resolved quickly,' she replied, trying to calm her husband.

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Honour let the four in and arranged a table where they could lay the man to rest. She didn't know what was happening, but her instincts kicked in. She brought the man a glass of water to drink and set aside pillows for him to lay his head, setting a sheet over him without warning. Lina watched in awe as the girl got to work... "Wait, where did the pillow and the sheets come from?"

"Mother likes to take a nap once in a while, so she keeps them in the office and takes a nap there when she feels tired," the girl explained, sending her mother a message apologizing for her tardiness in advance.

The doorbell rang when a man walked into the shop, startling them. He was dressed in the right attire for a doctor, a stethoscope hanging around his neck, and didn't waste time with pleasantries as he took immediate notice of the patient. He opened his first aid kit and got to work, checking his vitals and cleaning his wounds. The four stepped away from the man while he worked, "What happened to him?"

"He took one hell of a beating during a fight with Alpha Cole," Jason reported before Lina could speak.

"Sounds like a strong man. Was there a reason for the alpha to be so rough with him?" he asked them.

"It involved his mate, so he was losing his senses at the time. I don't think it occurred to him that he was supposed to go easy on the guy," Jason replied.

During the check-up, the ringing of the bell that announced the arrival of someone else invited three more guests. A woman, the pack warrior, along with two more female assistants, "How is the patient, Morgan?"

"Not as good as I would have hoped, I'm afraid," the man replied, not taking his eyes off the man, "We might have to transport him to the hospital to have him treated expertly. His life might not be in danger from what I gather, but we don't have enough to get him back in shape to the best of our abilities."

"I'm glad I thought ahead then. The car is outside. Let's get him to the hospital," the woman ordered. Jason helped them carry the man out and placed him in the back seats of the car making sure he was in the most comfortable position. Frank groaned whenever his stomach was touched and went into a state of half-consciousness. He was in more pain than he'd let on.

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Lina reported everything that had occurred to her parents while she waited with Jason and Sandra in the waiting area at the hospital. Frank had been rushed into the hospital on a stretcher and the doctors hadn't told them any of their observations before they went in. The king and queen were getting worried and almost chose to pay the man a visit, but Lina convinced them against it.

Instead, she chose to stay at the hospital with her best friend and the two 'lovebirds' so that they would wait for the results, "Who is that man?" Honour asked her when they were finally seated.

"That is Cupid Shooter, but he prefers to be called Frank Silver," she replied.

"You're messing with me, right?" when the girl didn't reply, Honour got worried, "You're not kidding. How did a Mighty warrior take a beating?"

"It was Cole..." the explanation continued, narrating everything she could to the girl.

"Was Cole injured?" the girl asked.

"I couldn't tell if he was. He heals so quickly that there was barely a scratch on him," Lina replied. Sighing, she mumbled more to herself, "What a disaster for a 'first day' of training?"

Sandra stayed beside Jason waiting for the doctor to return with the results. She leaned into the man's shoulder, finding him to be a little warmer than normal, she inched closer. The man noticed and put his arm around her, "Air conditioners were not meant to be used during the night." The sun had set a little under thirty minutes ago and the sky was starting to darken.

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The doctors finally returned with the results from their tests. The woman kept an expressionless face since she didn't want to scare them any more than they already were, "I don't know the details of what happened between the man in there and the royal, but he clearly shouldn't have gotten into that fight."

"Is he going to be alright?" Lina asked.

"Yes, he will make a splendid recovery. He won't be able to use his hands for firing arrows for a little bit since he got his knuckles hurt. It was like he was punching a wall. Did he miss at one point and hit a tree?" the doctor asked.

"No, he didn't," Lina sighed. This was the second time she was seeing Cole fight. He'd gotten far better than the time he'd faced off against her brother and his abilities had considerably grown since then.

"Okay then... He also has a few broken ribs and his head was hurt pretty bad that's given him a mild concussion," the woman continued, "Yeah, I guess that's it. Any questions you would want to ask."

"Yes, when can he be free to leave?" Honour asked.

"A week at least. That man is in no condition to exert himself," the doctor answered. "If you want to see him, you can follow me, but I'm afraid he won't be waking up today," the doctor silently led them to the room that Frank was in. His shirt had been removed and bandages wrapped around his torso. His hands as well were bandaged focusing on the knuckles. A ventilator had been placed on his mouth to help him breathe evenly.

"He didn't look his bad when the fight was done," Jason commented.

"Well, the adrenaline must have worn off and the true extent of his injuries kicked in after some time. It happens to everyone. I'll leave you to have a moment. Visiting hours end in forty minutes," with that said, the pack doctor was gone from the room, leaving them alone in silence.

"Cole broke his mate's trainer, huh," Jason commented amidst the silence. What bothered him was the fact that he felt no sympathy towards the man before him.

"That's not what I told him to do when I mentioned Katie getting obsessed with training," Sandra sighed.

"Don't you have any sympathy, Jason?" Lina asked the red-eyed male.

"I probably would if his opponent hadn't been Cole. I watched him fire four arrows at my alpha. I'm afraid that was the moment sympathy flew out the window," he replied.

"Huh, it was out of self-defense," he replied.

"Self-defence would have been him accepting that he'd done something wrong so that Cole would keep from trying to kill him. He let his pride get the better of him and tried to put Cole down with his hands instead of choosing a peaceful approach. You don't hurt a werewolf's mate and choose a path of violence, then expect some sort of peaceful resolve," Jason explained.

"How about we stop debating this in this room?" Honour interrupted them, "What are we going to tell the king and queen?"

“That question might be a bit late. The king asked the doctor for the report over the mind link and contacted me. They are coming here as we speak,” Lina said, keeping a bored tone as she did, “Perfect, Cole, just perfect...”

“Does Cole know about the doctor’s report?” Jason asked.

“Yes, he does. He was with my parents when they were told. What’s that got to do with anything?”

“Well, he might just be able to help,” Jason replied, getting questioning looks from everyone in the room, “Much as I hate to see him do it...”

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Cole hadn’t thought he’d be hearing about the man that had put his mate into this state so soon, but alas, his wishes were not what the world had in store for him. It was not long after the doctor had left that Lina’s messages started to come through the mind link. Since Cole was not yet established within the general mind link of the Sirius werewolves, there was not much he could listen to unless it was intended that he listened.

He had to wait as the king and queen listened to what their daughter told them before they relayed the information. The king finally came out of his daze for the second time, “How hard did you hit him?” and asked the question Cole was now tired of hearing.

“Just tell me what happened to him,” Cole asked.

“Well, according to the doctor, the man is in hospital and he won’t be released until later on. His injuries turned out to be worse than he’d made them look and the effect was even worse once the adrenaline was out of his system” Davin relayed the short version of the story.

“Great, now I’m also the one responsible for placing a Mighty Warrior in a hospital,” the man sighed. However, his wolf, that was usually more attentive to Katie’s needs (however possible that was...) had already beaten him to another grave issue. Cole’s eyes snapped open when he realised what it was trying to tell him.

“Can we go to the hospital and visit him?” he asked the royals that had already begun discussing what they were supposed to be telling the other hunters on the issue at hand. They had to find a way out of this before the hunters decided the rogues were not their only enemies.

“What’s going to the hospital supposed to help? Lina already said she’ll handle everything there,” Davin replied.

“No, I need to see the man and atone for what I did to him...” he paused, looking back at his sleeping mate, “Before Katie gives me an earful on how I put her trainer in the hospital before she could learn anything from him.”

“What could you possibly do? The man won’t be able to move in while. Katie is going to give you an earful anyway...”

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“Davin, just let us accompany the boy to the hospital,” Queen Martha stopped her husband during his rambling. Her words stopped him from finishing and further seized his attempts at trying to make sense of Cole’s request.

“Very well then. We leave immediately. We don’t have all night,” the King responded, striding out of the room.

“He’s always been quick to judge,” the queen sighed. Walking up to Katie and placing a kiss on her daughter’s forehead, “Something tells me she’ll be as good as new tomorrow.”

Cole knew what she meant although a part of him wished she was wrong. It would have been nice for Katie to know what it’s like to have muscle pains after pushing herself that hard. ‘Caden, come to my room and stay my mate’s side until I get back. If anything happens to her, you tell me.’

‘I’m on my way,’ his response came almost immediately, ‘If I may ask, what did happen to Luna Katie.’ The title sent shivers down Cole’s spine. He’d known this to be the case soon enough, but he’d never thought of heard her being called his Luna before and he liked the sound of it.

‘She’s just sleeping, Caden. She’s exhausted from her training today and I would like you to watch her. Doctor’s orders were to have her eat something and drink the moment she woke up,’ Cole told him.

“Very well... I’ll get right on it,’ while all this was said, Cole followed the Queen and caught up with the king. A car was already parked outside waiting for them. The king informed Lina of their departure and let her know that they were coming. However, he did not give a reason why as he didn’t exactly have one that made sense to him.

‘If I may ask, Alpha Cole. Where can I tell her you are in case, she asks?’ Caden’s voice came again.

‘Well, you can tell her that I went on a midnight run. That would help lessen the rage that would be thrown in my face when she actually finds out where I am,’ he replied.

‘I’ll just wait for you to tell me the details when you come back,’ Caden replied with a sigh. There seemed to be endless questions and using the mind link often made situations awkward for the people physically around someone.

‘Good choice, Caden. I’ll explain it all with time. For now, don’t tell her of my actual whereabouts or of the fact that we had this conversation in detail. Did I interrupt something you were doing,’ Cole asked.

‘No, you didn’t. I was just getting ready for a hot bath...’ he paused, ‘Right after the game I was playing with the other pack warriors that were resting from the patrol.’ His confession came rushed like it was killing him to reveal.

‘You don’t have to hide that from me. I see you’re getting more into Gunter’s company. I hope you don’t pick up his very unnecessary commentary,’ Cole replied, ‘We’ll talk later, Caden.’

‘Yeah, we shall...’

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The royals found Katie in the patient's room patiently waiting for their arrival. Sandra was starting to get sleepy and had taken a seat to the side with Jason by her side. Lina chose to remain standing while Honour also took a seat herself, "Lina, are you okay?" was Martha's first question.

"Yes, I'm fine. It's Frank you'd like to worry about," Lina replied, hugging her mother and sparing Cole a short glance. After what she'd seen earlier, it wasn't so easy to get used to his presence and Cole painfully noticed the change. His wolf tried comforting him bringing up images of his unconscious mate that he simply had to protect from the man's brutal training.

"I'm glad to see that you are okay," finally letting go of her daughter, Martha moved forward to the curtain that was barring their eyes from seeing the patient. The king took his time and hugged his daughter, his pride and joy. Something Drake would have gotten jealous about if he had been present.

"Where is Drake?" she asked.

"He went out with Phillip to handle some issues earlier this afternoon. He'll be back either tomorrow or if he's really that desperate, in the middle of the night," the king relayed. The sound of the curtains being drawn cut his reunion in half. Despite proposing their journey to the hospital, Cole wanted to be anywhere else, but in this room. Maybe back with his mate where he was supposed to be. That sounded like a better idea.

Martha gasped at the state she found the man in. He looked worse than she thought was possible for a man of his stature, "How did you even manage to inflict this much damage?" the queen gasped.

Cole sighed, "I would start by reminding you that your son didn't lose to me in the magic games because I was better than him in combat, but simply because he couldn't inflict enough damage to put me down before I brought him down."

The king thought this through for a bit, remembering the irregularities that had been in the fight during the last royal games, "That still wasn't enough for you to bring down a man of this level."

"I'm not the same boy I was back then, you know," Cole replied, walking through them until he was right beside Frank. Jason stood up and grabbed Cole's hand getting his alpha's full attention.

"You don't have to..."

"That is my decision to make," Cole cut him off. Jason backed off, noticing the narky mood questioning Cole brought him. He didn't change his mind about his decision, but there was nothing he could do about it.

The alpha hated what he was about to do, but he had more than enough reason to do it, just like he had more than enough reason to do it back then... "What exactly are you trying to..." the king went silent when he saw something he couldn't describe begin to happen.

Cole held the man's hand in his and slowly, his veins began to turn black, pulsing with an energy that flowed from the blackened veins on Frank and straight into Cole. The rest watched in a mixture of emotions as a miracle took place before their eyes. Taking off the wrapping on the hunter's hands, he watched the bruises on his knuckles vanish and the skin return to its former state, leaving nothing like a scar.

The same injuries, however, began to form on Cole's wrists, healing almost as quickly as they came. They lasted longer than any of the other injuries any of them had the opportunity to see him get. Every injury that vanished from the man was seen rapidly appear on Cole and vanish just as fast. This continued for well over three minutes with utter silence in the room. When the black veins finally receded, Frank breathed in deeply and settled in a sleep that was no longer laboured.

His breathing was fine and he looked as good as new. Cole, on the other hand, staggered backwards and collapsed into the nearest seat he'd taken the liberty to remember. Queen Martha rushed to his side, "Are you okay, Cole? That couldn't have been easy..."

"I feel like I've been hit by a tank," Cole replied, "The only way to injure me or cause any definite pain is to have me heal someone else's injuries and take them as my own."

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Queen Martha called the pack doctor and had her take Cole's vitals. Another doctor came to make an examination on Frank Silver. Lina and the rest were pushed back to the waiting area. Once again, they were stuck waiting for someone to come out of the hospital room. This time though, none of them was worried about what had happened to the Mighty Warrior.

"What did I just see in there?" Honour was the first to ask. The girl had hoped to go home after a normal day at the flower shop, but the world had other plans for her and now she'd just watched a royal healing someone else and taking on their injuries.

"Well, I am just as clueless as you. I would like to say Cole healed him, but Cole looked really exhausted when he was done. I'm now wondering if it was worth it," Lina replied, taking a seat beside her best friend.

"Well, we'll have to wait and ask him what happens when he uses that... ability of his," the queen responded, hoping the conversation would end until the alpha arrived. Alas, curiosity was simply too strong.

"I would like to know as well. I wonder when the boy will be coming out of that hospital room," the king asked, redirecting the question to the pack doctor through the mind link. "Well, the doctor says he will be out soon enough. Ten minutes never killed anyone."

"Honey, we are in a hospital. You might want to refrain from using that kind of..."

"Oh, sorry. Ten minutes never put anyone in a coma. Better?" he asked with the widest grin.

"Never mind..." she sighed, taking a seat beside him and cosying up to him. Silence took over the group as they waited for the royal to come out of the hospital room. It was the longest ten minutes in Lina's life. She knew there was an explanation for everything that she'd seen that day and that it was probably what she was going to get out of the Cole when he came out, but the wait was unbearable.

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Just when Lina was about to stand up, the doctor returned with Cole following behind her. He looked better than they'd left him, but he looked paler than he normally did. Queen Martha stood up from her

seat by the king. "It's been long since she's been like this," the man commented more to himself, staying seated.

The woman shrugged off his comment and proceeded, "Cole, how are you feeling?"

"I'll live. The effect will wear off in a few days," he replied.

"He just needs rest and lots to drink. Have him keep up that routine and he should recover in a few days," the pack doctor concluded, "I won't ask for details, but whatever Alpha Cole did to the man in there has him in better shape than I've ever seen a human before."

"Yeah, that about makes up for what I did to him," Cole sighed, turning from the doctor and walking towards the exit, "Thank you for everything doctor." He said as he left. Jason was by his side almost immediately.

'Huh, he just left...' Lina ran after him, struggling to keep up with him, "Come on, you can't leave without telling me anything about what I've just seen. Cole, what was that back there?" the girl bombarded him with questions.

"I don't want to talk about it, okay and I'm hoping it's the last time you ever get to see me do that. It hurts like hell and I won't be doing it just for anyone," he snapped at her.

Shocked by his reaction, Lina fell back. She wasn't done and when she'd recovered, she sped up again trying to match his strides, "I don't want to ask you to do it for anyone. I just want to know what I saw. Since when can you heal others?" they reached the front doors and Cole went through the doors. The crowd following him had no intentions of giving up their pursuit and made sure to keep him in sight.

"It wouldn't hurt to tell us that much, Cole," King Davin's voice froze everyone in their tracks, including Cole. It was easy to ignore the young girl beside him, but the King was a different person altogether.

After thinking through it, he conceded, "Let's get to the palace and talk in your office."

Seeing how late it was, Honour asked Lina if she could leave them. The girl was excused and given the king's chauffeur to see her home. Jason took the driver's seat, shocking Lina. The girl held her tongue, but envy racked her brain, "He's barely old enough to drive."

"I qualify in more ways than you can hope to match," he replied with a smirk. Placing a peck on Sandra, he opened the passenger seat for her. Queen Martha enjoyed watching the way the wolf treated the hunter, but sometimes it was nothing more than funny to her. To her surprise, she found the back door open for her. The king stood there holding it for her to enter.

"What's this?" she cooed.

"Just this once. Since the driver is not here, it wouldn't make me a gentleman if I let my Luna open the door herself," he replied with a smirk. The queen giggled, getting into the car.

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Lina's curiosity was not always her best trait and it was definitely not one now that she kept having to wait to hear what Cole had to say to them. She'd spent a long time trying to accept her brother losing to sixteen-year-old years ago, but now that she had seen what Cole could do, she wanted an explanation.

Food and refreshments were brought to the alpha's office where they all sat in silence as Cole got comfortable. Jason rubbed circles on Sandra's back. The girl's mind wandered about what had happened that evening. She was trying to make sense of what she had seen and trying to understand how she'd gotten so lucky to have witnessed all of it.

Among all the witnesses, she was the only one that was human. She was so ordinary that she sometimes joked that she'd be able to stare a dragon in the eye with all she'd seen. Cole finally sighed. He knew he wasn't getting out of this one and so he arranged his story, "Where to start... umm..."

"How about you tell us when you found out you could do that and what exactly it is," the king replied.

"Very well... That sounds easy enough. I found out I could do this a few years ago. One year to be more specific," he said.

"That's quite recent," the queen cut in.

"Yeah... it really is... Sometimes it feels like only yesterday..."

One year ago...

Cole was back from his vigorous training that day. His friends, Caden and Jason, came in with him collapsing into the sofas in the living room, exhaustion racking their bodies, "Cole, how can keep up this training every day and not get exhausted? What are you?"

"That is a question I have already answered," the boy replied, "Catch." He threw bottles at the two of them. The two boys caught the bottles and drained them of their contents.

"He says it's all to beat Drake the next time he meets him without any excuses," Caden sighed.

"What does that make us if he gets too strong?"

"Oh, come on, Jason, you know who my beta alphas will be when the time comes. You two and no other... So, make sure I don't leave you in the dust," Cole encouraged them. The three of them had grown up together and one of the things the boys had promised Jason to put his mind at peace and allow him to forget his lost mate was that they would get strong enough to accomplish what the hunters were failing to do. 'Kill the rogue King...'

"That's comforting to hear even though it sounds like you're letting me down easy. Did your father finally tell you his thoughts on our mission? We are supposed to be setting off to search for him soon. Your seventeenth birthday is not far," Jason asked. The boys had made a plan to leave the castle for a year so that they may track down the traitor that was the source of the war.

Their mission was overly ambitious albeit lacking proper guidance, "He doesn't talk much these days. Between all the meds and the pack disputes he has to solve, he barely has any time left to answer anything," Cole replied.

"That's a bummer. All the more reason we need to go out and hunt the rogue king though. He wouldn't have to worry about rogues with the Rogue King dead. That stinky wolf will never see you coming and even if he does, there won't be much he'll be able to do against you. Sometimes I wonder if Cole's actually made of metal, nuts, and bolts," Jason joked.

“Yeah, and the next time you think something like that, you’ll have to spar with me with no protective gear,” Cole responded.

“No, thank you. I’ll take an actual tank over you any day,” the three laughed at the comment before a message came through the mind link, informing Cole of news that drained the colour from his face.

“What is it, Cole?” Caden had barely asked when the boy was running up the stairs. Jason had his mind open when the message went through and had unintentionally heard the unprotected message... ‘Get to your father’s room... He might not have long left with us...’