

Chosen 161

161 Chapter One Hundred Sixty One

The king lay in the bed in his room. The curtains were drawn and the doors to the balcony opened, letting in a cool breeze. Cole came running and stopped at the entrance of the room. The stench from his father's failing organs hit his sensitive nose harder than ever before. The odour rolling off the dying man was not for the faint of heart and Cole could barely stand the sight his father was in.

"What happened?" his voice broke through the silence. He paid nothing to the warnings the nurses tried to give him. His father hadn't been in such condition when he'd left the palace that morning. The pack doctor, a frail old man whose wisdom in medicine was yet to be surpassed by anyone in the kingdom of Lycaon let the alpha pass to reach his father.

"You always love to make a loud entrance. Would you learn to keep your voice down once in a while?" the king's voice was weak. Alpha Miles Lycaon of the Lycaon empire lay on his deathbed and his head swarmed with worries that he wouldn't let out of his mind.

"Father, what happened? You weren't this bad when I left you this morning," Cole tried.

"And where was it you had so dutifully gone? To train with your betas, again. How's that going?" the man dodged the question. This time the doctor answered the boy's question.

"I found trace amounts of wolfsbane in his blood. I don't know how it got there. Just to be sure I had the whole palace checked, but there was no sign of wolfsbane in the utensils used by the king or anything he came into contact with for the last twenty-four hours," he began. Cole knew there was more. The man had been working for the royal family for a long time. Probably longer than Cole was alive.

"Then what was it?"

"It was an injury that I suffered eighteen years ago... The day we all laid down our lives to protect the child chosen by the moon goddess to lead this war to its inevitable end," the king spoke. He went into a fit of coughs that had Cole heavily worried. Squinting his eyes while the king went through this painful ordeal, the alpha could only hold his hand while he went through it. Whether it was his imagination, the boy hadn't noticed, but his father seemed to breathe better the more he squeezed his hand.

Once out of his feat, the man continued his story, "The hunters were summoned to protect the baby at all costs. We had nothing to worry about and the rogues didn't stand a chance. At first, we thought they were desperate until the hunters became overwhelmed. It soon became clear that we were completely surrounded. I had never thought the rogues could be that many and they kept on coming regardless of how many they killed.

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Eventually, one got through the defenses and went straight for the room you were in. I'd stationed guards at the entrance and they did their job of apprehending the rogue. I rushed in to make sure you were alright. That's when I saw them... the others. An elite team of alphas that had scaled the walls of the castle. One of them was a beta alpha. That wasn't the hard part though... The hard part about dealing with them was what they wore. Armour that had dripped wolfsbane.

Their very clothes seemed soaked in it and they wore masks to keep themselves from being affected. The head of the Chase family came to my aid in a flash. It was a hard and long fight and we'd won. I let my guard down and one of the rogues stabbed with a knife doused in wolfsbane..."

"That should be enough to kill a royal," Cole replied.

"But it's enough to fatally harm them if they don't get the right treatment in time. By the time I was treated, my wound would not heal anymore and as time went on, it continued to infect the rest of my body, spreading the wolfsbane through my system. At least, that's what my doctor tells me. My time is almost upon me, Cole," the words felt like needles to the boy.

An alpha was not supposed to die before he'd been succeeded and that could only happen once his heir had found their mate. Cole had no mate and he was an only child. His father's death was simply impossible for him at the moment. Looking down at the hand he held. Through the foggy sight that his tears created, he could see the blackening hand. He felt a dark ache as well.

Wiping the tears from his eyes, he paid attention to what was going on. It wasn't rocket science and his instincts knew what was happening at the moment, "Cole, what's happening to your hand?"

Feeling somewhat energetic, even though he didn't know how or when he'd regained some strength, the king lifted his head ever so slightly enough to get a glimpse of the black that moved from him and into his son. "You didn't heal because you weren't treated in time. If I take on your injury, you won't have to worry about the healing part."

"Another ability... This one is too special to come without a cost, Cole. It could kill you to save a dying man," his father tried.

"It doesn't matter if that man is my father and you know I'm tougher than that. We have a lot we haven't done yet, father. You can't leave just yet..." the more the boy talked, the more colour returned to the king's face. His illness was fading. The veins on the boy began to extend, covering his whole hand and sneaking past his shoulders. The pain was starting to feel unbearable. Cole placed his head down and bit into the covers to keep from screaming.

"You don't have to overdo it, Cole. I will be fine now. You've bought me time..." The king yelled at him this time. A pair of hands pulled Cole from his father suddenly, cutting their connections the moment they were no longer in contact. Cole barely took notice of his assailant. He was consumed with the pain from trying to heal his father. Since this was the first time, he was doing something like this, he also had no idea what was going to happen... "Cole, Cole..." a feminine voice called out to him. He'd collapsed on the ground, drained and with no energy to get back up.

The black veins still swarmed about his body and he healed slowly. The pain was all he knew at the time. He only wanted some form of relief and before he knew it, he had fainted.

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Back to present time...

"I woke up the next day with a pounding headache and pains in all my muscles. The healing process was slow which is saying something considering I barely get time to notice my injuries," Cole finished the

story, making sure to send it privately through a mind link he opened with the others in the other car. They all needed to hear this once. He didn't want to tell the story more times than he had to.

"I don't know whether I should look at that as a gift or a curse," Lina spoke up after a period of silence.

"Well, it was a blessing for my father. I don't want this story getting out. I'm not a healer and I never will be," he announced with a hint of finality in his voice. There was no further discussion on the topic. Anyone in his shoes would have done the same thing anyway.

Sandra leaned back into her seat and sighed, remembering the events of the day. 'I'm glad Frank will be okay though,' she thought to herself.

'You know I can still hear your thoughts when they aren't guarded,' Jason's voice came into her mind.

'I was under the impression that ended in Brigadia?' she asked him.

'Well, that's what I thought as well, but I found that I could still hear you without even focussing,' he replied, 'Are you going to tell Katie anything of what happened to Frank?'

'There will be no need to tell her. Frank is okay and he can therefore continue to protect her. I don't need to intervene,' she replied, yawning. Sleep was starting to tug at her eyelids... 'The first day of her training and she was able to crack a thunderclap that loud. I wonder how fast she was going when she did so. I also wonder if she's going to learn how to do it without losing her breath. Just how far will you go for me to catch up with you...'

Jason heard the girl's thoughts and decided to remain quiet. He looked at her momentarily when the thoughts went quiet. She had fallen asleep in her seat. The palace was now in view and he could tell that everything in the palace was calm. Caden, diligent as he was, had communicated the state of the palace with disturbing detail, along with the assignment he had been given to protect the Luna. It was only after Caden had called by her title that Jason realised just how precious Katie was to the Lycaon empire.

'Caden, is everything okay on your end?' he called through the mind link.

'Yes, the Luna is sleeping soundly. Her breath is a lot better. Are you almost to the palace? Is Prince Cole with you?' Caden asked.

'Yes, I returned with him. He healed the Mighty Warrior. It might be best to prepare a meal for him before he goes to bed. Something light and nutritious,' Jason replied.

'I'm on it. Welcome back, Jason,' Caden replied... Jason took some time to his thoughts... When he'd first reached out to Caden on matters concerning their alpha, his friend had been very alert on the matter and agreed with him at every turn. To Jason's surprise, he was also serious about this and couldn't joke about it when it came to the welfare of his alpha, no matter how much he wished he could. This hadn't been the case when they'd set out to Brigadia from Lycaon.

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Darkness came in every direction. Cold from a menacing breeze mixed with all sorts of scents the girl could only cringe at. When she was in this state, she wasn't allowed to have preferences. She could feel so much around her and yet she was sure she wasn't there. At the same time, she was unconsciously aware of her mate's presence.

She was sure she had gone to rest before he was able to get into bed with her. It was only after a short moment of strain that her memory returned to her. She'd used up all her energy to achieve something she'd thought was impossible for her. Instead of sadness, the girl was filled with bliss. She was a step closer to getting even more powerful compared to her enemies.

If the enemy was only werewolves, there wouldn't be much reason to worry, but they were more than that. With hunters that had turned against them and sided with the Rogue King, Katie had to work much harder if she was going to get her hands on him and there was nothing that was going to stop her from getting to him... As was her determination. Her thoughts were cut short by the grunt of a boy. She strained once again to see about her only to get assaulted by the sudden appearance of numerous pains riddling her body.

The girl tried to reach for every part of her body that pricked, but there was nothing there. She felt like clawing the pain out for there was nothing she could do without anything to tell her she was actually injured. Her mind doubled in confusion as the pain intensified, highlighting numerous phantom cuts that were littered all over her body, "Would you keep quiet? You'll get me into more trouble than you already have," a voice came from the darkness, snapping her senses back to normal.

"She looked about and this time forced herself to make out what she was trying to look at. After a moment of silence and muffled pain, she was able to make out the familiar walls of a cell. She had been here before and she turned around immediately, looking for Kyle. Right where she'd seen him the day before, the boy lay on the ground, but he was much different from the last time she'd seen him. His face had cuts all over it, purple liquid oozing out of it...

Upon further inspection, she found that it was not all that was on the boy's body. Through his tattered rags of clothes, she was able to tell that the cuts weren't just on his face. They spread all over his body. She touched a spot that itched her and found it to be the exact gash that was on the boy's body. She could feel the pain he'd been put through, however, that hadn't been the case before.

"What happened to you?" she asked him.

"Well, since I can't find the energy to answer a single question that I am asked or even open my eyes, they decided it was best that they would use wolfsbane to force me to talk. Wipe that looks of pity off your face... It was I who killed Ashley after all... And I did it with pleasure, only to have you rip my life away from me," he spat.

A surge of anger came from within a different entity in her mind and body. Katie held Ashley back. The last time she'd been here, Ashley had been asleep and hadn't been able to show her what she was supposed to feel towards the boy, however, the anger never became hers as it normally did. The wolf normally felt emotions that aligned with Katie's and they would be one. The two of them weren't that different and yet, Katie remained calm when she was sure she was supposed to be angry.

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"Ashley, what do you suggest?" Katie asked the wolf.

"I suggest you tell him that the colour of his eyes is yellow and tell him exactly what he can tell the rogues when they come to interrogate him," she replied.

“That is a very odd request,” she replied. The wolf’s anger seized just quickly and the two were soon engaged in a discussion.

“I want to see what will happen if you do all that. You don’t have to use your royal tone to command him. I just want you to try and talk to him so that we can know if he still has hope of atonement. If he’s too far gone, then we kill him without a second thought,” she replied.

Katie wanted to argue. So much of the wolf’s answer had not made sense, “Are you okay, Ashley?”

“Yes, I am fine, Katie. I’m just hoping we could find out more about this situation we are in. We’ll be fine. Our mate is with us,” the wolf replied.

“You know I can hear the both of you, you know. Oh, you have a mate now. Look at you, Katie. Living the life while I simply rot away in a cell and get tortured by rogues every day,” the boy spat, “This is all your fault.”

“What do you mean this is all my fault? And yes, I am living a happy life. I found my family and moved in with my mate. Well, not technically... He more like moved in with me and we’ll be soon moving on to Lycaon, but that’s beside the point...” the girl rambled, “Why, Kyle? Why did you betray me when I gave you everything you ever asked for? Ashley only received one good gesture from me and was ready to leave the rogues, but you were able to be my best friend. I could have done everything you ever asked of me and you still felt it necessary to betray me...”

“Are you done, Katie? Are you done telling me about everything you think I did wrong? You have no idea what it’s like to be born a rogue. Let that dead friend of yours tell you. One small slip up and the payment is death. I only did what would get me out of the ordinary rogues. With your head delivered, I would sit at the top in the ranks of the rogues and never have to worry about anything. If you haven’t noticed, the world you are fighting for isn’t exactly free. It is we who are free...” Kyle spewed words that only tarnished his image in her mind.

The girl was now used to the pain of the wounds on her body, “Are you real or are you just my conscience trying to tell that I did the wrong thing?”

“Oh, is someone having doubts? You know that if it were a nightmare, I would have already grabbed a knife and slit your throat,” he smirked.

“Well, if you haven’t noticed, I control my dreams. If I was given the chance to dream of you, it would be about your demise in the ugliest way possible. Anyway, do you have something to tell me about bonds and connections that the werewolves share?”

“I wouldn’t know a thing. I’m a rogue remember,” he replied.

“Oh, right... So, you’re useless. I have something to tell you,” The boy seemed to perk up in attention to Katie’s summons, “Your eyes, from now on, they are yellow.”

“Of course, they are yellow. That’s not my problem. My problem is the fact that I can’t open them when a rogue comes near. I don’t get it one bit...”

'Katie,' Ashley perked up, 'It's his wolf. He communicated with me. Kyle has never had the chance to connect with his wolf and he hasn't listened either. The wolf took control of some of his body parts and he wasn't able to rat you out like he wishes to.

"Well, open your eyes, then," Katie ordered him. Instincts dictated he would obey her out without fail and he did. Katie froze at the sight before her. The raging red in his eyes was swarming with an amber that threatened to flush it out.

Kyle, not having power over his open eyes, covered them with his hands. They itched so much they dripped with tears, "What's happening?" he nearly yelled. Thankfully, Katie did not feel pain from this specific development. After a short moment of pain, the boy before her removed his hands from his face. His eyes shone the bright amber that she'd expected from him.

"What's happening right now?" Katie thought out loud.

Kyle looked at her for the first time, getting the chance to look at her for enough time. The night before, the girl had escaped before he had the chance to take in her appearance, "You look happy. I would have thought with the scars in your arms and legs coupled with the betrayal of your best friend would leave you crippled," he genuinely said. His wounds were starting to heal and the pain was disappearing.

He scoffed at the sudden change in his composure, "I thought it was a coincidence yesterday, but when you came to visit, my injuries healed after you left as though I'd been given a power boost. Now that you're here again, I can't help but noticed I don't feel the sting of the wolfsbane anymore," he mentioned. He couldn't look her in the eye any further and so he looked down, kneeling before her like a servant tending to their master. The posture puzzled Katie heavily, "That can only mean you're about to leave again."

"You said something about this all being my fault," Katie replied.

Kyle furrowed his brows at the accusation, "Yeah, that's right. I don't know how considering that is only something I was able to decipher from my wolf. You're the reason for everything happening to me. He makes sure I never forget it and I'm starting wonder just what you did to destroy my life this much," he replied, "Maybe you could figure it out and come here and reverse it. I know I will be seeing you soon. You better fix me, Chase."

With that, the image of the boy vanished before her eyes. 'How is it my fault?' she wondered.

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Katie woke up the day afterwards later than they normally did. She looked to her side and found her mate soundly asleep beside her. Looking beyond him, she found that they'd missed the alarm. Either that or the man had decided to turn it off that night. Cole's hand unconsciously wrapped around her, "Where do you think you are going?" he grumbled, barely opening his eyes.

"Well, if you haven't noticed, we should be following the others for pack training," she tried, turning to face him in the bed. The royal made no effort to get out of the bed and showed no sign of letting her go.

"You've been exempted from that training considering you completely depleted your energy yesterday," Cole replied. His tone was commanding. Katie could tell he wasn't going to back down in this...

“Who decided that?” she asked, letting go of the tension in her muscles.

“The pack doctor did... It was part of her advice to help you heal from what happened,” Cole replied, pulling the girl closer to him. Katie snuggled up closer and asked the looming questions on her mind.

“What happened after I passed out?”

“Well, that might be a long story. I’d prefer you pull it from my memories. I don’t think I’ll be capable of putting it into words,” the royal spoke up bringing his hand to cup his mate’s cheek. The two of them closed their eyes and allowed themselves to meet within the bond they shared. Katie was getting used to this kind of connection the werewolves shared. In fact, she found it to be very handy when it came to relaying the true emotions behind someone’s words.

Katie watched in silence as her mate got angry on her behalf and put a Mighty warrior into a hospital bed. Each time she felt like arguing with him, his emotions assaulted her. It was hard to oppose someone when you felt the anger that they had in the moment that they had it. Cole’s emotions were all over the place and Ashley did nothing to oppose them. In fact, the wolf was supportive of what had happened.

When Katie had reached the point Cole decided to go to the hospital, she asked that they ended the connection. Cole stopped the inflow of memories reluctantly. Katie didn’t want to know what happened after that. Frank silver was in the hospital and that alone was very dangerous to her mate, “Cole, you do realise a royal hasn’t struck a hunter in centuries? Your actions could put an end to all your efforts.”

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“You didn’t let me finish,” he tried.

“What’s left to finish Cole? You put the man in the hospital. I spoke with him the other day and found that he’s never actually taken a beating in his life. Cole, what were you thinking?” she spiralled.

“Katie, calm down. Frank is okay,” Cole raised his voice, shaking her to get her attention.

Katie went quiet for a while. Cole was not making sense and at the moment, she was sure of what she had seen in his mind. None of it was a lie or the emotions would have been impossible to fake, “What are you trying to say? I just watched everything in your mind.”

“No, you watched a part of it. Now would you like to watch the rest,” he replied. curiosity gripped the girl’s mind. How could someone that was in hospital with injuries that serious suddenly be okay within the same night. Closing her eyes, she allowed the bond they shared to do its work and let the royal’s memories through. She watched as he went to the hospital and used a power she hadn’t heard of to heal the man.

Katie was quiet all while she watched her mate take the pain of the hunter and restore him to his former state. It was both scary and miraculous to watch. Unfortunately, she felt all the emotions and pain that her mate was feeling through all that and she instinctively hugged him when she felt it. Cole appreciated the gesture and did nothing to fight it... When the memory was done, he let silence take over them.

“Well, you were right about me eating you for breakfast if Frank was stuck in that state,” Katie mumbled to herself.

"I figured... Can I ask something of you, Katie? Actually, it's two things right now," Cole asked.

"Anything," she replied, noting the meaning of her statement, "Except having me marked right here and now. I'm still not ready for that..." she quickly added.

The male nodded in confirmation as his thoughts had already begun to fly through the possibilities of finishing that one thing this one time that he'd got the opportunity. Alas, she wasn't ready yet which didn't bother him as much as it used to. Veering back to what he'd meant to say earlier, "You aren't to push yourself so hard. Not like you did yesterday and you are also to eat enough to replenish your lost strength."

Katie stared at him for a moment. Despite wanting to keep Cole happy, "We need to adjust those conditions," she grimaced. It was heartbreaking to have to disagree with Cole. The royal furrowed his brow in annoyance.

"In what way exactly?" he asked.

"Well, I have to push myself if I'm to make it to where I want to be. On the other hand, I can promise to slow down a bit," she replied.

"That won't do. You won't train with him again if you are going to push yourself that hard, Katie," his voice held a hint of finality. Katie had almost forgotten that Cole had banned Frank from training her any further than he'd already done.

"That's not fair, Cole. You know its necessary," she replied. The male didn't reply. He only stared at her, "You can't force me to agree to something like that. You might as well stop me from training altogether."

"I'm quite sure your adoptive parents didn't train you to push yourself this hard either. You aren't meant to hurt yourself. Every time you do that, you leave yourself vulnerable. What makes you think the rogues will stand by and watch you reach your weakest points before they make a move against you," Cole replied.

"We are in the capital, Cole. There are no rogues this close to the castle," she tried to reason, but the man was far beyond reasoning with. For once, the girl wanted to push herself out of his grasp despite the overwhelming weakness that overtook her when she was with him. Slamming her fists weakly on Cole's chest, Katie noticed him wince if only slightly. It was clear to her that the small gesture of frustration had physically hurt him. "Cole, are you okay?"

He sighed before answering, "Yeah, I'm fine."

"Don't lie to me, Cole. I can tell you are in pain," she replied, her voice going up a few octaves.

"Among the side effects of me healing someone is that my healing speed is reduced. It will take me a bit to get back to normal," he explained. Katie froze at the revelation. He'd seemed so fine when he woke up.

"How many side effects are there as a result of using that power?" she asked him.

"Well, I get the injuries of the person that I heal and my healing is slowed. It might be faster than that of the person that I healed, but it isn't as fast as it normally is. I lose a lot of energy and remain weakened

for a few days. Oh, I can't heal a fatal injury. That would kill me as well and leave the person I have healed perfectly fine," he explained.

"Oh, I see... Did your powers come with a user's manual or something?" the girl chuckled.

Cole chuckled along with her, "No, they didn't, but with research, one was made." It was a white lie and Katie saw right through him. Cole had been hiding something from her, but she hadn't pushed him to tell her what it was. She would wait for him to tell her. Maybe this had also been a part of it.

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Crysta stood in the training fields waiting on the person she'd officially booked for the morning training sessions. The she wolf knew that she could learn a lot from Katie, but couldn't get over her pride to admit it. Unfortunately for her, the girl never showed up and she didn't want to use the mind link to contact her since it would have made her sound like she cared (which she did not... obviously...)

The girl walked up to Lina and Honour who were still going through the morning aerobic drills before Jackson gave his orders, "Hey, runt, where is your sister?" she asked Lina, "The one that doesn't suck as much as you and is too nice for her own good that it's even disgusting."

"Did you just call Katie nice?" Lina wondered.

"Well, considering I was hanging about her mate and bullying her sister and yet she doesn't show a single sign of hatred towards me. Not to mention the fact that she got you of all people back into the den, yes, she is too nice for her own good," the girl replied.

Lina hid the smile that graced her face, "Well, Katie was told to take the day off after what happened yesterday. The same goes for Cole, so you might not be seeing her today."

"Hey, Crysta..." a voice came from behind the girl. Lina's smile fell when she saw the source of the voice. Liam stood behind the girl, folding his arms, "Ah, I see you're speaking to the runts again. What are you trying to prove?"

"Can you mind your own business, Liam?" Crysta replied, standing between the two groups.

Liam noticed the defensiveness that came off Crysta and scoffed, "It's like you want to make me sick. Anyway, I'd come to ask if you're free. I don't see that prissy princess around, so I thought we might train."

"What happened to your usual training partner?" she asked him.

"I think I might have broken him. Now don't make me repeat myself. You and me, now..." he commanded.

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Crysta had no choice but to follow the alpha's orders. Liam, to be more specific, wasn't so happy when he was disobeyed. He might have not been the alpha of his pack and only an heir to his father's pack, but that didn't change the fact that he outranked everyone that didn't bear blue or red eyes. Crysta walked away from Lina and Honour, her gut twisting as she got nervous.

When they'd gotten their own place to train or more like after Liam had forced a few wolves to move from a location of his own choosing, they got to training. Jackson's orders had not yet been issued, but Crysta knew Liam more than that. He didn't listen to many instructions and today wasn't about to be the first time he did.

Dashing forward, he sprung into an attack. The girl blocked his fist successfully, surprising Liam, "For someone who didn't see that coming, you're quick fast. I'd forgotten what it was like to spar with someone worth my time," the male praised her before launching into another attack. He had the girl on the defensive before long.

"Well, you're the one who normally picks weaklings to train with you. How do you expect to improve if that is the way you go about your training?" Crysta replied through gritted teeth.

"While that might be true, I only do it to get over the formalities of having to be here for morning pack training," he replied, increasing the speed of his attacks. Crysta was forced to try and keep up with him. Seeing as she was only a delta's daughter, she wasn't nearly as strong as he was and it was only her continued training that allowed her to stand her ground against the assault.

"What's that supposed to mean? Don't you think the training that's done here is useful?" she replied.

"Oh, it's useful alright. And its only use is to allow high ranking wolves like us to assert our dominance over the weaker ones. No matter how much they train, they can never reach the power we have. Take that runt for example... I've watched her train so much, but Jackson is always making her run extra drills for being late. She's probably the biggest idiot I've met in a while," he continued. Crysta's eyes blurred for a moment as her wolf surged forward and pushed an attack through an opening the alpha had been leaving since the beginning of this training.

Crysta didn't stop herself. She couldn't... Not after hearing what the wolf had said about Honour. Amongst all the runts in the pack, that was the only one that Crysta respected. Liam was taken aback when he received a fist to his gut that got him to his knees coughing, "How..."

"Well, you haven't been training with anyone worth training with. You say you don't need to train, but my eyes would suggest that I'm weaker than you and yet here you are, coughing at my feet," she said, squatting down.

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Liam grunted in pain. He was recovering, "That was a lucky hit. Don't get cocky just because you managed to sneak one hit through. I have more questions for you, Delta. He got up to his feet and the sparring continued. This time though, Crysta had warmed up and was able to keep up with him, keeping him on his toes as well. "What do you think you're doing? Do you actually plan to atone for the years of torment you've put that girl through?"

"You think it would be okay for you to keep picking on the same person that outranks you. Grow up and see the reality Liam. She's the daughter of our king and it's only a matter of time before she realises how much power she holds over you. To her, you're just an insect. Katie has decided to train her. With that speed of hers, you'll soon be nothing to her," she replied.

“Oh, so you’re only being nice to her because you fear her. Don’t make me laugh. Nothing is going to change here until we graduate. She will remain the runt she’s always been. She doesn’t fit in. She’s a weirdo and you know it. Unless you’d like us to consider you a weirdo as well,” Liam threatened her.

Crysta only got angrier by this and in doing so lost control of her ethics. Before she knew it, she was fighting with all her strength. Liam realised the line he’d crossed. The girl’s fist flew fast and heavy. Even guarding against them felt like a chore. He hadn’t been training seriously in a while and she had kept her training up. Seeing through the openings in his defence was easy enough and Crysta had broken through his defence shortly after losing control of her anger.

Seeing a moment of weakness, the delta held the alpha by the neck, blocking his legs with hers from the back, she flipped him so that he landed on the ground with her hand at his neck. He chocked from the force she’d used, but she barely paid heed to what she was doing to him, “You keep thinking like that and you might just be put down for treason... and don’t be surprised if I’m the one who brings that judgement upon you.”

She let go of him and started to walk away from him, “You’re no saint either...” ‘Not after betraying someone you considered your best friend...’ the last part he said through the mind link. Crysta froze at his last statement. It brought chills down her spine, but also gave her even more clarity on what she should have done a long time ago...

“I have to start somewhere...” she replied. Liam was shocked by the reply...

‘No, you don’t have to start anywhere. Nothing has to change. She can stay at the bottom like it’s always been. Are you afraid of Katie? Is that who you’re afraid of? Tell me what has made you change your mind all of a sudden...’ Crysta blocked out the boy’s messages and walked up to the two friends. Lina was trying to get Honour to get a certain pose right. It had nothing to do with training or stretching. Upon hearing what the two girls were talking about, the girl blanched. They were trying to copy a pose from a heroine in one of the shows Lina had been following.

“What might you two be doing, if I may ask?” Crysta interrupted their... immersive training session.

“Well, if you haven’t noticed, we are trying to improve our coordination by trying out new...”

“You can stop there. I don’t really care, Lina. Follow me, runt. We have more training to do. I’ll leave Sandra to the other one,” Crysta cut Lina off, grabbing Honour’s hand and leading her away without another word. Despite the rudeness of the way Crysta spoke, Lina was keen to catch something she hadn’t heard in forever... Crysta had called her by her name... Lina...

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Somewhere far from where the castle was, a wolf walked through the woods. He’d been through these hidden woods more times than he’d like to admit. This was the only place he knew to contact them. They didn’t give him any other location and for that reason he was bound to always return to this same place. If it wasn’t for the freedom he had as a person, he wouldn’t have been able to make these trips as many times as he did without anyone questioning his whereabouts.

He reached the camouflaged cabin in the woods he'd graced with his presence and entered the hidden door that had been painted and covered in moss to make it look as natural as its surroundings. The man entered the cabin after confirming the scents of the people he'd come to see were inside.

"Well, if it isn't the one man I always have the pleasure of meeting," the rogue king boisterously laughed. The man the entire world would like to see murdered sat before him in a chair sipping a cup of coffee or at least that's what his nose told him.

"Do you have any message for me?" the man asked the king.

"My my my... always skip right to the point. If it wasn't for my respect for such a quality, I would have thought you didn't want to be involved with a law breaker like me," the king laughed once again.

"Well, you do pose a threat to my cover. These frequent visits are making it harder for me to keep my cover. I need another way to contact you so that we don't have to..."

"No, that won't be happening. If I'm to contact you in any other way, a rogue will bring you the information that you need to know. Turning to the chair beside him, the rogue king retrieved an envelope and handed it to the man, "General Amanda is a pretty one. Would you like to have her for your own once I have taken the throne?"

"What do you mean taken the throne?" the man asked, taking the envelope from the king.

"Well, it's quite obvious really. To gain control over all the wolves in the world and lead the humans to their final destruction through a single command, I will have to take one of the two thrones. I might just challenge both of the kings and take their thrones without another thought," he thought to himself.

This was the first time the man was hearing of this and despite everything that went through his mind, he was forced to keep a neutral expression. It was one of the skills he'd picked up along his life. Staying neutral to any and all information that was presented to him, "Well, that would definitely be a colourful day for all of werewolf kind. Call on me in case of any help you require..." the man said, turning to leave.

"I'm glad you brought that up... I do need your help in carrying out a specific task," the rogue king replied. The wolf froze at the statement. He'd offered his help out of courtesy, but hadn't expected to be called on immediately.

"I need to take someone out of the picture if I am to achieve this and you will help me do it," he replied, "When I do become king, you can have Amanda..."

"What would you like me to do for you, your majesty?" the rogue king smirked at the man's obedience. They both bore eyes of the same colour and yet it gave him pleasure to have the other bow to him.

"I like the sound of that..." the rogue king mused.

165 Chapter One Hundred Sixty Five

"Katie Sirius, might you tell us what the answer to the question is?" the faint voice of the teacher tugged at the girl's consciousness, "Katie Sirius... I repeat, Katie..."

"I heard you the first thousand times, Miss Downey. I don't know the answer to the question," Katie replied.

"You could have said that the first time," the teacher scowled before moving on to the next student. In truth, the girl had no idea what the question had been. The class was one that she'd taken before with her parents even though they were nearing her coverage. She didn't dwell on it as her thoughts once again drifted to what she'd heard that morning from her mate.

She'd thought he was only a little injured, but it showed in his walking even when he tried to hide it. Cole was not okay and she wished she could do something for him. After watching him take a beating from a man who was using the strength Prometheus gift, Katie was sure there was nothing she could do. Cole could take one hell of a beating and still look normal and yet he could be injured by the very power he was blessed with. It was a cruel predicament and she didn't like it.

"Are you okay?" Cole asked her.

"Yeah, I'm fine," she sighed.

"Well, you might want to act like it. Stop worrying about me," he replied.

"Can you please stay out of my head?" she groaned, "I'm allowed to worry about you. Unless you want to order me against it."

"First of all, ouch... Second, your thoughts are all over the place. The whole pack could probably hear them considering you aren't shielding them in any way. And third, worrying about me will only make you miss out on what you're supposed to be doing. Are you even paying attention to what the teacher is saying..." he was cut off by the teacher's voice.

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"No murmuring in my class. I have had enough of you delinquents making noise in my classroom. If you have something to say, then say it," the teacher said as she wrote a definition on the board.

"Well, I know now..." Katie replied, with a cough to cover up her moment of speech.

Cole remained quiet after that. The teacher was obviously not human and could still hear them even if they whispered more. The humans in the class looked about the class, but to them, it was quieter than normal. There would have been no doubt if the teacher herself had been hearing the conversations of the wolves through the mind link.

Ding Ding Ding... the annoying sound of the bell came shortly after and the students barely waited for the teacher to wrap everything up before they were filing out of the classroom. Unless the class was still in session, there was nothing that could stop the students once the bell had been sounded. The teacher rushed to her desk and pulled out sheets of paper that she meant to hand out. Fortunately for her, a group of men started to walk into the class along with the principal.

The men were all muscular and carrying werewolf scents of the forest. Amongst them was none other Sean Sirius, the one royal that remained a mystery to everyone that saw him. The principal stood beside the man, "If we could ask for a short moment of time to make a small announcement," he began, "Class 8b will be taking a trip with another class, specifically 6c to the Sirius wildlife reserve. This offer comes from the royals. Due to the lack of enough security personnel, only a few classes shall be going for this trip per weekend. You will spend a night at the hotel there on Saturday night and we shall return on Sunday. Is there anything you would like to add, Prince Sean?"

“Yes, I would like to add that everyone is to take this trip as both an educational and leisure experience. No one is to conduct themselves badly. A chance like this only comes once in a life time and I was feeling generous when I received the idea. The king approved of it and handpicked the classes that were to start the trips. As you might have noticed, both of his daughters are in those classes, so consider yourselves lucky for that reason,” he finished, “That will be all. The rest will be communicated later and letters for you to give to your parents will be handed out soon enough. Make sure they are ready for that time and have given you their signatures of approval.”

With that said, he left with the wolves he’d come with. Three of them and all of them green eyed. They carried the auras of betas, a breed that was stronger than the deltas. It was debatable and no one really cared to get into it.

Stories of Crysta beating up Liam were already starting to move amongst the werewolves. Without Crysta’s approval and Liam’s consent, they were all but rumours. Crysta refused to take responsibility of her actions and continued through her day like nothing had happened and Katie couldn’t help, but take notice. However, to her, fighting amongst wolves was just stupid. She didn’t like it and it angered her.

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The wolves in the den didn’t stare at Lina so much anymore when she walked in and the wolf was thankful for that. After what she’d been through on the first day back to the Den, she hadn’t thought it would get any easier after that, but she was able to enter the den, with Honour escorting her of course. She found her sister already seated there and for the first time, frowning her brows at her phone.

“Hey, Katie...” Lina greeted her, taking next to no notice to the alphas that were seated at the table with the rest of the them. Cole was relieved she was getting comfortable even though he wouldn’t have minded if she took her time in getting used to this.

“Hey, Lina,” the girl replied, keeping her attention on the phone.

“What is it? You seem to be holding...” the girl froze, “a new phone. Good for you. What happened to the old one?”

“Well, the old one fell into a pool of water. Long story,” Katie replied.

“Were you able to get all your contacts back?” Lina asked her.

“Well, that’s what I’m trying to do right now, or in other words, that’s what I’ve done, but now...” the girl groaned in frustration.

“What is it?” Lina asked, curiosity getting the best of her.

“Well, look at this,” Katie turned the phone so she could see the message telling her sister she couldn’t make a call to someone in Brigadia. The money was just not enough to make such a call.

Lina giggled, “Just ask mum and dad to get you hooked up. You won’t be able to make that phone call without paying a certain amount that I’m afraid you might not have.”

“I have that amount, but I also can’t seem to access my account,” the hunter groaned.

“Oh, I’d forgotten you were a...”

"I still am, Lina. I still am," the girl argued.

"You haven't done anything that a hunter is responsible for doing ever since you got here. Some of us were simply under the impression that you weren't a hunter anymore," Sandra pitched in with a smirk.

"Oh shut it, Alastair. I will always be a hunter. That's until the Rogue King is brought down. I'll step down from that job when that happens," Katie replied, sticking her tongue out at her friend. After finally giving up on the phone, she placed it back into her pocket and moved on to something she thought was worth discussing. The hunter's mind was always working in weird ways, but more than once, she'd be happy it was that way, "Cole, what happens when a royal bites someone?"

Honour took their orders before Cole got to answering the question. Unfortunately for him, there was someone else thinking of answering the question, "You don't even know something as basic as that and you call yourself a hunter," Wyatt spoke up.

Katie turned to look him in the eye, "I do remember specifically asking Cole this question. Were you taught that when you knew something someone else didn't, then speaking trash like that was the way to go?"

Wyatt was at a loss for words, "I was taught that all wolves were supposed to know this before they even got into their first class and that all hunters were taught this before they were ever granted their gifts. Are you sure you are fit to pose as a hunter when you don't know something as simple as that?"

"That's enough, Wyatt," Cole spoke, up calming Katie just as well, "I'll explain everything Katie. You already know that the bite of a royal turns a human into a werewolf, but not just any werewolf. They turn into alphas. I know you wouldn't have asked this question unless you had another reason for asking. There are other situations in which the bite of a royal does something other than turn a human into a werewolf.

A bite is used to mark... a bite is used to kill and a bite is used to give power," he summarised.

"What's that supposed to mean?" Katie asked him. He'd just twisted this logic upside down.

"Well, it only means, I can bite your neck and leave a mark, claiming you as mine. I can bite a wolf and kill them. To be more elaborate, the bite of a royal, based on the intention behind it, will kill a wolf like a deadly poison. The last one is the one that's done when allowing a wolf to change packs. It also makes that person, by default, an alpha," he explained.

Katie's heart went into overdrive when she heard what Cole had to say about all of this. She had the faint memory from a time when she'd been in the forest in Brigadia. When she was trying to hold on to Kyle. She hadn't wanted to kill him just yet and as she was losing grasp of him, she'd bit down into his hand. There was no other reason she could find for the colour of the boy's eyes or the connection they shared.

"Well, what is the third one like? The one where a royal is choosing beta alphas," she asked.

"Well, under normal circumstances, a royal will only have to make a choice and the beta alphas would gain that power, but as part of a ceremony, that alpha is required to bite each of them to initiate them as the first two and only wolves that royal will ever bite. By doing this, the royal won't be able to will the

power of the beta alpha into another werewolf unless they bite another wolf, which is strictly forbidden,” he replied.

Katie couldn't believe what she was hearing, or at least, she'd known all this and merely didn't want to think about it. The silence in her mind was almost unbearable. Ashley had retreated to the back of her mind that her presence was so faint. Just then, Cole's eyes widened in shock, “What's with your eyes?”

“Oh, my wolf is sleeping. That has been happening for a while now. Every time she goes to sleep, my eyes lose that glow,” Katie quickly explained. Their food finally arrived and they were served accordingly.

“You're so weird sister,” Lina confirmed as she dug into the food her friend had brought. She sent her gratitude through the mind link and made sure to invite the overworking female to enjoy the meal with them and only let the matter go when Honour accepted.

“Yeah, you can say that again,” Katie replied absentmindedly... ‘This is so messed up.’ Ashley didn't want to face her other half. After all, she had been the one in control when she bit into the boy's arm that day.

166 Chapter One Hundred Sixty Six

Cole was worried for his mate ever since it was done. The girl hadn't spoken much after the revelation he'd made back in the den. The silence was unbearable. Even though the entire time they'd been in the class, he hadn't been able to focus. Katie could feel his unrest and it was starting to get on her nerves. The girl's eyebrows, ever so slightly, twitched in annoyance.

“Cole, would you let it out already?” she whispered.

Cole's face beamed before he contained his happiness, “What's up? Talk to me. You've been awfully quiet.”

“Cole, I am also trying to figure it out myself,” the silent classroom of students began to look back at the whispering duo, silencing them. They both looked at the teacher's desk and found that the teacher was not paying attention to them. ‘Mind link, Katie,’ Cole spoke directly to her mind, ‘And you can focus our conversation being private so that no one can eavesdrop.’

The girl sighed and placed down her pen. She didn't need to solve the third problem anyway, “I had the dream again... The one where I talk to Kyle.”

Cole was silent while he interpreted what she was saying. It was only the second time she was having this kind of thing, but that was far from the issue. It got to her, it felt real and it had happened for the second night in a row, “Did you bite him?” he asked her.

“Yes, I did bite him. The rogues were going to have him and I bit his hand to keep him in my possession. Shortly before I found the Rogue King and got shot by Jeremiah,” she replied.

Cole thought through this for a while before coming to a conclusion, “We'll have to consult your father on this. I am not as knowledgeable as he is. Even if I was to come up with my own theory, it would still be a theory that I wouldn't be able to prove. If he says the same thing I'm thinking, then we might have a problem on our hands. One question...” Cole asked her, pausing for a while to rethink his motives.

“What is it...” the suspense was killing the hunter and she wanted so badly to know what her mate was thinking about.

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“Do you still bear hatred towards Kyle?” he asked her. Katie’s blood went cold as though the sun had left the world and left it cold and desolate. The one thing she’d never wanted to reveal to anyone was this very fact. The hunters wanted Kyle to pay for his crimes and hearing from her that she wanted nothing to do with him would be... ‘hypocritical so to speak.’ “I guess that answers that... I won’t tell anyone if that’s what you’re wondering, but if what I think is happening is true, then you won’t be held accountable for any of this.”

A glimpse of hope got hold of the girl, “What do you mean by that? Do you mean to say the disappearance of my anger towards him has something to do with the fact that I bit him?”

“Well, pretty much. It’s a rare situation, but it’s not unheard of,” Cole replied. His emotional unrest was gone, but that was the beginning of Katie’s unrest. She wanted to know what was going on in Cole’s head, “Don’t worry about it, Katie. You do trust me, right?”

“I should have used that on you just a moment ago,” the girl grumbled, burying her mind back into the confines of mathematics, a subject she had a talent for and nearly no use for.

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The bell rang, signalling Katie dreaded training time, “Cole, will you be accompanying me to the training grounds again. Yesterday turned out to be...”

“No, I won’t. I need to take care of that thing you’ve got going on with Kyle,” he replied. Katie was stunned, trying to figure out how he’d skipped over what had happened the day before and let Frank train her without his supervision. The royal closed his books and stood up, picking up his bag. Katie almost missed the slight wince that came from him. “Take it easy, okay...”

“I will,” he smiled, placing a peck on the girl’s cheek and walking out. Caden had packed his bag as well. He bowed, “Later, Luna Katie,” he said before walking out to follow Cole.

Katie blushed red on hearing the title. “Since when did...”

“Caden and I decided to acknowledge the fact that you are the future Luna of the Lycaon pack,” Jason clarified.

Sandra, on the other hand, was smirking with her face stuck in her book, “Someone is starting to sound like a wife already. And to think she was only eighteen years old,” the girl dramatically placed the back of her hand on her forehead, “Oh, the romance... It’s choking me...”

Jason was laughing at the girl’s antics while Katie blushed even redder. “Oh, I see someone was never taught to conceal their emotions. How did you become a hunter when you can get embarrassed like that?”

Sandra lost her smile and silently groaned... Trevor simply couldn’t take a hint, “Why are you still so interested in this humble group of werewolves. I am studying in the capital of Sirius, my very birthplace. So I don’t see what could possibly have you so curious about me.”

“You’ll have to forgive the fact that I don’t believe a word that comes from you. You can see how hard it is for me to believe you’re a hunter when you haven’t even paid the top floor a visit. You know there is all manner of luxuries up there. We can watch over the whole school from the surveillance room there. A true hunter would know the benefits that came with accessing that facility,” he described.

Katie knew the angle he was taking and couldn’t help, but be appalled, shocked, and impressed at the same time, “You’d actually stoop as low as using treats to tempt into joining you up on the top floor.”

“I’m just a curious hunter. I will be drawing the patrol routes for the trip. Do you have a preference so that I can fix you at the time of your convenience? Or are you a retired hunter that no longer knows how to do her job?” he asked her.

Katie couldn’t believe what she was hearing. Although on second thought, she realised this was Trevor she was talking to. He seemed to be capable of using any manner of techniques to reach his end goal, “What happens if I completely refuse to join you in the patrol?”

“Well, if you didn’t know this already, there are pro hunters up there that just come to chill out and see how things are going. If they find out that the only hunter in the school was not even taking part in keeping civilians safe as is the duty of a hunter, they might start to question where it is you lie in all this. I already filed a petition for the verification of your license,” he spoke up.

“The license comes after the hunter. If I didn’t have one, I would just show you Prometheus gifts and you’d know that I am a hunter,” she replied.

“Well, we have seen Lina Sirius run almost as fast as a hunter with the agility Prometheus gift, but you don’t see us running around claiming she’s a hunter. Considered you are related by blood, you could be the same case,” he replied with a smirk on his face.

“Katie, you don’t have to play this game with him,” Jason interjected.

“Quiet, wolf. This has nothing to do with you,” Trevor spat at Jason. The short interruption was enough to break Katie out of Trevor’s argument and she was thankful for that.

“No, you’re right, Jason. See you later, Trevor. I will do my job however I see fit. After all, Prometheus doesn’t choose people who aren’t competent enough to handle the tasks he gives us. As for your invitation to the top floor, I will have to turn it down.” Lina ran into the class at that moment and froze at the sight before her. Katie went silent as well, “Is something wrong?”

“No, nothing’s wrong. Frank just called claiming you should already be halfway to the training grounds. What are you still doing here?” she replied, “And Sandra, we have a lot to take care of. Is Jason coming along? Dealing with the Hulk as a sparring partner might prove to be an impossible task.”

“You’ll have to work on your combat until I am sure you’re ready,” Jason replied.

“You make it sound like I’ll never be able to beat you,” she replied with a groan.

“Well, you might be able to beat Wyatt by the time we’re through with you, but I’m a different case,” Jason replied with a painful smile. The phrasing of his answer bothered Katie although she gave up on thinking about it when no answer returned to her.

“As you just heard, Trevor. I have no time to waste with you,” Katie mentioned, bouncing out of her seat. She was only halfway to the door, with the others behind her when she heard the boy’s comeback.

“A pro hunter going through training... That must be embarrassing. Are you defective or something?” there was venom in the boy’s voice and Katie was reaching her tolerance limit... ‘Does this boy just live to annoy me...’ she mentally screamed.

‘Can we... you know... rough him up a bit?’ Ashley knew no other way to help her friend other than to offer a violent solution.

167 Chapter One Hundred Sixty Seven

Trevor stood behind the girl with a grin that announced his feeling of triumph over the royal. He’d only been trying to get the upper hand in the matter and ended up angering her. However, the junior hunter had not noticed the error in his approach to this situation and only continued to feel as though he was on top of the world.

Sandra noticed Katie was barely hanging on to her control, “Hey, Katie. I’ve wanted to race you again. However, you aren’t going to use your gift this time. I want to beat you fairly,” she intervened.

Katie knew her friend was trying to save the foolish boy and thankfully, she complied. She’d caused the royals quite a mess already with the incident with Crysta and Cole wasn’t exactly in the clear with what he’d done to the Mighty Warrior. If Katie were to lash out at this ignorant boy, there would be even more trouble for them.

“You know you will never be able to beat me. Sometimes I wonder why you even try,” the girl replied before rushing off with her friend. Jason turned to the boy eyeing him with all the malice he could muster.

“You’re lucky I have a benevolent Luna. Next time you try something like that, I will personally make sure that I put you in your place,” Jason threatened the boy.

“And you think the words of an alpha can scare me? You’re more ignorant than I thought,” the boy replied. He wasn’t wrong to feel that way... After all, if he was as powerful as his position dictated, then he wouldn’t have that much trouble with an ordinary alpha. Someone like Wyatt would steer clear of this boy.

“Watch yourself, hunter. You might just regret every word you hurl at us,” he commented before turning to follow the three girls. Lina had run off with the others, her love for a challenge in speed getting the best of her.

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Cole found his way to the King’s office, doing his best to put on a brave face every time he bumped into someone or anytime, he was forced to strain his muscles. He was still sore from having to use his power to heal Frank and it was only going to get worse. Before leaving for school that day, the Mighty Warrior had pledged to take it easy on Katie. He didn’t want to lose the right to train her and Cole, deep down, had known he’d never meant to hurt her in the first place.

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He wasn't worried about the training his mate was about to go through, but he was worried about everything else she'd told him about the dreams she'd been having. He needed to confirm his suspicions with the king before it was too late. He continued up the stairs until he came to the king's office, a soundproof room that made it impossible for eavesdroppers to listen to anything but allowed those inside to hear what was happening outside.

This design was made in case the room was to ever be completely vacated and the king was inside without any protection. That way, there would never be anything that caught them off guard while keeping their presence in the room a secret as well. It was the perfect panic room (one might add...)

Cole barged into the room only to close the door, rubbing his eyes in an attempt to get the images from his mind. The king and queen making out in the office, their hands all over each other. The royal smirked, 'The quirks of having a soundproof room...' he thought to himself while broadcasting his thoughts to the king inside the room.

'What did you see, Lycaon?' his voice boomed in his head.

'Don't panic, your majesty. I didn't see anything inappropriate. Otherwise, that would be a memory I'd beg you to take before Katie stumbled upon it,' Cole replied with a chuckle. It was not unheard of for the king and queen to have fun in that room, but they could at least lock the door... The boy complained in his mind.

"Come in," Queen Martha's voice came through the speaker at the side of the door.

Cole slowly and reluctantly opened the door, letting his head through to scan the room. The king was seated at his chair with his head in his hands while the queen blushed couldn't help but snicker at his embarrassment, "What do you want, Lycaon?"

"Probably tips on how to..."

"Get to the point, Lycaon. Before I lose my temper," Davin growled, sensing Cole's joke.

"Simmer down, King Davin. I do have something to tell you in regards to my mate. I think she might be in trouble," Cole began, finally getting into the room and letting go of the heated moment he found the two enjoy. He silently wished no one ever walked in on him and Katie in such a situation. The outcome of such a situation was simply impossible for him to predict.

The reason for his interruption seemed to catch the couple's attention, "What about Katie? What's wrong with her? Did you mark her without permission? Did you yell at her? Did her wolf..."

"You can calm down now, your Highness," Cole cut Queen Martha off, "Considering you would never be able to guess what happened to her even if I gave you a thousand tries." Cole rubbed his temples as he took a seat on the opposite side of the table. The queen was seated in a chair beside the king, one that had only been recently moved to get her closer to him. The detail didn't bother Cole although it did make the desk arrangement feel a little weird.

"Could you tell us everything already?" Davin almost begged him.

"Well, she's been having dreams of an old... 'acquaintance' of hers," he began.

“An odd way to put it. Katie knew everyone in Brigadia... Well, almost everyone. It was a small town. An acquaintance would be...”

“I see your point, your Highness, but that’s beside the point. She shouldn’t be having these dreams in the first place and now that she’s asked me about bites and their effects, I’m starting to suspect something,” Cole replied, cutting the Queen’s rambling off once again.

“What was she asking in particular? Better yet, who has she bitten? I hope she didn’t bite anyone...” Davin replied.

“I wish that was the case, but she did bite someone,” Cole replied. The king sighed and placed his head in his hands, rubbing his temples. The queen was equally shocked by this revelation, however, her reaction seemed held back.

“Who did she bite?” the queen asked.

“She bit Kyle. During the time that she was trying to keep him from being captured by the rogues, she bit him to keep him within her possession,” Cole replied.

The king spoke from within his palms, “And considering she wasn’t intending to kill him, the bite never poisoned him. Instead, she formed a bond with the rogue...” the king began to voice Cole’s suspicions.

“I told her to wait so that I could confirm my suspicions on the matter. Do you think that mutt will become Katie’s beta alpha?” Cole asked.

“I don’t doubt it. Did Katie tell you the colour of the Kyle’s eyes?” Davin asked.

“She said the boy’s eyes were red. She seems to know what she did to the boy, however, I doubt she knows everything about what happens to the first two bites that a royal takes,” he replied.

“Yeah, that’s true. We can have her kill him the next time she gets a vision,” king Davin replied.

Cole snapped at the man, surprised by his sudden suggestion, but even more surprised by the calmness with which he said it. The king had his hands drop to the table before continuing with what he was saying.

“Katie has been trained to deal with this sort of thing. All she has to do is tell the beta alpha to stop breathing and he won’t breathe until he is dead and gone,” Davin continued.

“Isn’t that a bit too drastic? That boy has information that we can use. Katie can have him obey her as a spy within the rogues.

“That is taking too much of a risk. You know the rules, Cole. The king and queen are supposed to have only two beta alphas in total and that’s the end of that. You already chose the alphas that you will take on as your betas. Katie doesn’t get to make such a choice. In that regard, Kyle must die,” Davin was firm in his opinion on the matter.

“What if Katie doesn’t agree to that solution? You know how the bond between a royal and a beta alpha is... The Beta Alpha will never disobey them and the alpha, in turn, will feel all their pain, all their grief, their happiness. They lose all malice towards one another and gain a different kind of understanding

concerning master and servant. They cannot betray each other or rather, the beta alpha cannot betray his alpha," Cole clarified.

"Has Katie told you she bore no hatred towards the person that killed a rogue she'd only just saved," the Queen asked.

"She wouldn't answer me when I asked. That pretty much told me everything I needed to know," Cole replied. The king was rubbing his temples in deep thought as he processed this information.

"If Kyle gets to live and the hunters find out that he's a beta alpha, I don't know what they will do. The rules that bind the royals and the power they hold were drafted a long time ago and for a reason. Two beta alphas per empire, that's how it's always been..."

"We'll find a way, but killing Kyle when he could help us from the inside is not a compromise I will be making," Cole replied, making his point perfectly clear. The argument ended with him standing in challenge to the King, an action he regretted as his head immediately began pounding with a nearly unbearable headache.

168 Chapter One Hundred Sixty Eight

Sweat, hard work, pushing limits and so many other things took place during the training Katie was going through. She still hadn't gotten closer than one meter to the Mighty Warrior. His arrows were calculated to corner her and make all her running seem predictable. With all the energy she could muster, she hadn't been able to get closer to the man.

"Is it just me or did you get significantly slower?" the man's voice sang from the clearing. Katie was panting wildly while she tried to come up with a strategy. If she couldn't get this part of her training done, she would never be able to move on to the next thing. Frank had so much he could teach her and yet here she was trying to learn how to outrun Jeremiah's arrows. Something she viewed as a waste of time.

"Oh well, if you don't stop hiding, I will be forced to use specialised arrows to smoke you out. You know I don't joke about things like that, so I would advise you to come out and give this another try," Frank wasn't joking and Katie knew it... "I'm counting to three. One, two... Oh, there you are..."

The girl was out and aiming for the win. She ran straight at him, robbing him of the ability to predict where she might have flanked when he shot his arrow. Nonetheless, the confident Mighty Warrior let his arrows fly. Four of them, fired in quick succession that it seemed they'd been fired at the same time and straight for the girl. Katie flanked to the right only to switch directions at the last moment and go left. Everything happened so fast that Frank had to stay at his best to keep up with the girl's speed.

It wasn't as fast as the Thunderclap's, but it was definitely a challenge to deal with. Straining his arms, he changed his target to follow the girl's steps. The girl tapped into something deeper, having driven herself into a corner. Frank fired his arrows and had them strike the ground where the girl had just been. However, his eyes were sharp. He could still see the girl no matter how fast she had gotten.

A smile graced his face as he swiveled on his heel and aimed his bow at the path the girl was bound to take. He hadn't told her his observations thus far, but she was faster than she'd been the day before.

After tapping into her power that much and fainted, she must have made it easier for her to get to higher speeds without noticing how strenuous it was to do so.

Frank was impressed... 'It's only the second day,' he mused while he let more arrows fly, cutting off all of Katie's routes. She barely dodged some as they were well calculated to hit her by the time she got somewhere. At some point, the man was sure that she could sense where he intended to shoot, or maybe she could merely sense the arrows and avoid danger at the last moment.

However, something was wrong and he could see it. Despite the increase in speed, the girl was making less progress than she had the previous day. He'd seen her ingenuity the day before. Futile as it had been, she was focused on her task and more determined to get to him. Today, she even took rests and asked for breaks, as though she knew she wasn't going to achieve her goal that evening, "Alright, take a break."

"You've been denying my requests for a break for a while now and now when I'm just about to get to you, you..."

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"Take a break, Katie. I won't repeat myself," he replied, firing a volley of arrows twice as fast as what they'd agreed for the training. The increase in arrows backed the girl back until she was backed up against a tree. The arrows that continued to follow hit spots uncomfortably close to her body. Frank stopped his barrage of arrows and stared her straight in the eye. He had only used up two of his quivers and wouldn't be bothered to retrieve arrows from the last one. It was only a matter of Katie defying his orders.

Finally conceding to the man's demands, the royal dropped to the ground, exhaustion filling her muscles as the adrenaline left her. Her breathing was laboured and her mood terrible. She'd been trying so hard. Her hand kept making a fist and unclenching in frustration, "What am I doing wrong?"

"Well, you are not focused," Frank confirmed.

Katie looked up at him in disbelief. The look in his eye wiped the defiance from her attitude. He took a seat beside her leaning against the arrow-riddled tree, "So what's on your mind?" he asked.

Katie sighed, "The junior hunter at the school was giving me a hard time. I'm trying to work through the anger."

"Can't you just breathe that away?" the Mighty Warrior asked.

"That doesn't always work. Sometimes I can, others... It's not that simple," Katie replied with a defeated sigh. Ever since she'd awakened her wolf side, she wasn't able to reign in her emotions. In fact, it had proved to be one of the hardest things she could do. She felt emotions strongly and didn't know how to handle all of them considering she'd never even had the time to interpret them.

"Oh, so you mean the wolf inside you makes it hard to interpret your own emotions or does she deny you the peace of mind when you try to achieve it?" this was unknown territory for anyone in the world. A hunter that was a werewolf had never been seen and hence dealing with one had never happened either.

“No, that’s not it. It would be so easy to get over it, but I can’t seem to do so. With everything that’s going on, he’s an extra nuisance that I seem to have the desire of taking out my frustrations on,” she explained.

“With everything that’s going on? What’s that supposed to mean?” he asked.

Katie realised he was never in Brigadia and needed a rundown on most of what she was trying to explain. If it could help her get better and improve, she was willing to give it a try, “Well, to put it in simple terms, I thought I wouldn’t have to deal with Kyle so soon, and in a way that’s as weird as what’s happening now. Not to mention Jeremiah whom I’m now sure is always watching my every move.”

“There are a lot of holes in that explanation. Explain to me who this ‘Kyle’ is and exactly how you figure Jeremiah is watching your every move,” Frank asked, trying to sound polite. The girl went through the short version of the story to explain who Kyle was. The Mighty Warrior couldn’t help but grimace at some of the parts of the story. When she was done with that she moved on to Jeremiah’s case.

“I can tell Jeremiah is always watching me... That is basically just a feeling that I am sure of. After all, the moment Lina was tired, the rogues seemed to get her at the right moment. Catching a wolf that fast is bound to be impossible and yet they were able to do it. I know that’s not enough proof, but I know what my adoptive parents taught me. I follow my gut on that...” she replied.

“Do you mean to tell me that he could be watching you at this very moment?” the man asked her.

“Yes, although I don’t think you will be able to find him. A job like this can only be given to someone who knows what they are doing. Maybe Jim Gordon could have been able to find him. His speed is incredible,” she commented.

“I’ll take your word for it and say that he won’t attack as long as he knows he can’t succeed or that he might lose his life even if he does manage to kill you,” the Mighty Warrior took a stab at summarising the situation.

“Well, basically, yes... Although I don’t think he can pin me down,” she replied, leaning against the tree with him, finally breathing normally. The two of them stared to the far side of the clearing where Katie took Lina through unorthodox drills of self-defence. It was amazing to find out that not only was the princess fast, she was extremely flexible as well. It wasn’t long before they were building up her agility.

Frank was quiet for a bit before he finally spoke up, “I think I get the gist of it now. Although there are a lot of missing bits of the story that you are keeping from me. I will tell you something though. The boy at the school... It wouldn’t hurt to humour him. He’s in charge of all the hunters-”

“Junior hunters...” Katie interjected...

“You do realise that includes your friend, Sandra,” he replied.

“I am her mentor. She doesn’t have to do anything that I haven’t told her to do,” Katie tried.

“That only counts if she has an assignment that you’ve given her. While she’s free, she is obligated to follow the boy’s orders. I do not want to get in between anything that’s happening here, but if I would, life would be much easier if you let the boy think he was controlling you. That way, you get to keep Sandra and everyone goes home happy,” Frank replied.

“What about his unending insults and quips? They are frustrating,” she groaned. Somehow this conversation was easing the anger she had developed towards the head hunter at the school.

“You’ll be surprised how people change when everything starts to go their way. It’s only to keep the peace. I don’t want to have you come here and lose focus during training...” Frank replied with a smile on his face, “Now, are you ready to give this another go?”

“Yeah, let’s try this one more time...”

As expected, the girl was focused this time and much tighter with her turns, giving the Mighty warrior a rough time. If it wasn’t for the four arrows limit that he had set, she wouldn’t have gotten to him, but he had set it and she did break through his seemingly tight defence and place her hand on his back. It had happened faster than he could follow. A smile graced his face, “Would you look at that? You caught me.”

169 Chapter One Hundred Sixty Nine

A brown envelope lay on the table with a written missive within it. It was from the so-called source the king had mentioned when he’d spoken to his ‘brother.’ The man paced about the room wondering what could be in the letter. His thoughts swarmed in his head. He’d gotten himself into a very precarious situation and he didn’t know how he was going to get himself out of this one.

Well, it wasn’t his fault for getting himself in such a situation. He’d only been following the wishes of his very goddess. At least, that’s what he’d known for as long as he could remember, “It’s been a while since you last spoke to me, Celeste. You know we had a deal. I was never to be blind at any one point in this sick twisted game of yours.”

The man walked out to the balcony and spoke, looking hard at the moon. She’s out there, risking her life every day and you choose to remain silent. Well, today is the last night I continue with this. If you don’t give me an answer, then I won’t keep this up. I’ll get her out and quit all this even if it’s the last thing I do.”

The man stared at the moon, keeping his hard stare unwavering. For someone who had no idea who he was or any information on werewolves, he looked like a mad man talking to the moon. He kept his voice low so that no one could hear him, but his face spoke volumes of the turmoil within him. It wasn’t normal to find him expressing himself, but this was one of those few times when he let his emotions be displayed freely on his countenance. When he was sure there was no one watching him, but Celeste herself.

Having said what he wanted to, he walked into the shower and got himself ready for sleep. Without reading what was in the letter, he got into his bed and drifted off to sleep. It wasn’t hard for him considering he’d been sneaking about the empire for quite some time. He was exhausted and losing the drive to keep up with the schemes he’d gotten himself involved in.

Far into the heavens, the goddess stared down at the alpha’s sleeping form. She’d been keeping her distance from this one for a while, but as it seemed, she had run out of options. She knew him well and wasn’t about to take a gamble on letting him go wild. “Are you going to talk to him?”

“I have to... If I don’t, who knows what he’ll do?” the goddess replied.

“The gods are starting to take notice of your involvement with the werewolves. Some of them are viewing your actions as direct interference with their actions,” Seth tried, but the goddess had made up her mind and he knew that what he was saying was only falling upon deaf ears. Sighing, he gave up, “Very well. I’ll do what I can to cloak you.”

“Thank you, my love,” she replied. Laying by the pool, she closed her eyes. She was out of chances to physically visit her creatures, but she did have one more way to communicate with them, although the more she used it, the more the other gods began to take notice of her increased involvement in the lives of the mortals and the rules about this were ironclad, the consequences for breaking them just as dire.

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Sean, the king’s uncle, slept soundly, his mind constantly wandering through memories of a single person that he’d only rarely met. Someone he cared about deeply but had only barely met. The moon goddess watched the man’s mind as it wandered about and her heart clenched with guilt. When she couldn’t take it any longer, she called out to him, “Sean...”

The man’s mind ceased immediately. He looked about his now-empty mind in search of the voice he’d now grown accustomed to. In the back of his mind, the most beautiful woman a werewolf could ever lay their eyes on floated about in a white flowing gown.

“There you are. What’s going on? Why won’t you communicate with any of us? I have noticed even your beloved Chosen are stumbling in the dark. You haven’t shown them anything to guide them and the Rogue king is on the move. He has plans that could end everything we’ve worked for. Why do you continue to sit idly by and watch?” the man snapped at her, “Did I have to first threaten you to have you come down to me?”

“Calm down, Sean. I don’t have so much time here. I came to tell you to keep doing what I asked you to do. It is crucial that you stay a step ahead of the Rogue King. Please, Sean. This is a request from your goddess. Would you rather have me on my knees?” she asked.

Anger boiled inside the man’s heart, “You know werewolves don’t want to hear you beg them one bit. We’d follow you in a heartbeat and even lay down our lives as long as the cause is just as you’ve always been to us. Don’t ever think twice before asking me to do something for you. That said, however, we had an agreement, Celeste. You were to communicate to me and not keep me in the dark for more than a month.”

“I know the terms of our agreement and you of all people should know that I wouldn’t break it unless something was amiss,” she replied to him. Sean was about to react when he interpreted what the moon goddess was trying to tell him...

“Wait, what’s that supposed to mean?” the moment he asked her this, the image before him began to vanish. The moon goddess was always risking when she communicated with them. Sean had found out about the rules that bound the gods and now he knew this was one of those rules that were keeping her away from them. She had taken a gamble when she came down to talk to him and at that moment conveyed the biggest form of a warning she was capable of making without tripping any alarms.

The man woke up to a start after having had a vision from the moon goddess. He rushed out of his bed. His mind was completely drained of sleep. It was like someone had just given him a dose of the

strongest coffee the world had to offer. He tore the envelope open in a hurry, his mind finally set back on his mission. His eyes skimmed through the letter with so much urgency that he almost missed the scented perfume that wafted into his nostrils when he opened the letter along with the beautified handwriting that had been used when writing the letter to him.

The person that had sent it always used the same style when making it and it was because of this that the rogue king had stopped questioning the man on what the letters contained. The very person they both knew as General Amanda seemed to have a personal interest in the royal and the rogue king had no objections as long as his orders were obeyed. The two were therefore allowed to communicate through whatever means necessary that didn't compromise the man's clandestine arrangement with the rogue king.

The letter dropped to the ground, leaving the man to his thoughts. His thoughts raced about as he tried to digest what he'd just read. He'd been holding on to the letter, waiting for a message from the moon goddess since she hadn't spoken to him in a while, but now that he'd read the letter, he didn't know what to think anymore. It bore nothing, but terrible news. So much so that the notes of love that were contained within the letter had completely slipped the man's mind and left him to his thoughts.

"Hey, your pacing is bothering the mind link. Can you keep your muttering to yourself?" King Davin's groggy voice came through the pack mind link, shoving Sean's growing thoughts from his mind if only for a moment. It was long enough for the man to think clearly for a moment. He wanted to do something about what he'd read, but he didn't know what to do that could aid in his mission without breaking his cover. Looking out the window, he spotted the dull glint of silver, something he was used to seeing at this point, 'That boy can be quite obvious sometimes,' he murmured before leaping off the balcony and shifting into his midnight black wolf, dashing into the woods at the fastest he could manage, keeping his steps stealthy.

The moonlight seemed to carve around the midnight wolf and keep it invisible as it travelled through the forest. The boy residing in the tree he'd spotted didn't move an inch as the royal approached him. He waited patiently for the man to reach the tree before he lowered himself. The massive midnight black wolf shifted back into its human form, "You're being too obvious. If I was able to spot you, what do you think Katie will do?"

"Oh, Katie can spot me just fine. The girl is always aware of my presence no matter how well I conceal myself. Chase hunters are troublesome to deal with that way. Besides, don't you think I let you see me so that I can talk to you?" the boy smirked, leaning in to whisper something in the royal's ear. Sean's eyes widened in terror if only for a moment and went expressionless before the withdrawing boy could see him.

"That sounds fantastic. Long live the Rogue King..."

"Long live the Rogue King, indeed..."

170 Chapter Seventy

Katie was seated in that classroom, her hand clasped around her pen very firmly. She remembered everything the Mighty Warrior had mentioned the day before with painful detail. Every now and then,

she stole glances on the other side of her mate to watch the junior head hunter. Trevor seemed focused on his work that he didn't notice her do this.

"So, he told you to make friends. What's so wrong with that?" Cole asked through the mind link. However, the hint of discomfort was evident and he did nothing to hide it.

"Oh, come on. You cannot be okay with this. Declare this absolutely stupid so that we might move on from this," she begged even knowing it was futile.

The alpha raised an eyebrow at her, "Any law I can declare bears the same weight as something coming from your mouth. In fact, in this country, you hold more power than I do since you are a princess of Sirius."

"I know all that Cole," she groaned, placing her head on the desk. Cole looked at the whiteboard at the front of the class and his mate's notebook. All the answers were already there.

'When did she get the time to learn all this when she was always training?' his thoughts unknowingly flew through the mind link.

"Sometimes my parents would make me learn all this when I was training and others were taught when I was too weak to train. As it seemed, learning new things always seemed to calm me down and it was when I was trapped in this cycle of learning, that I seemed to take in everything they wanted to teach me. I was a weird kid," she replied through the mind link.

"Oh, I wouldn't call you weird. You turned out just fine to me and that's all that matters," the alpha said, placing a peck on her cheek. The girl kept her head down to hide her flushed expression.

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The bell eventually rang, signalling the end of the lesson and sending everyone off to their lunch break. Katie's head was still down by the end of the lesson. Sandra tapped her shoulder, "Aren't you coming, Katie?"

"No, I'm not. I have something to do with that nosy junior hunter," she replied, making her best impression of someone who really didn't want to go through with something.

"Oh, I never thought you'd spare him a second thought. Do you want me to stay behind in case you need backup?" Sandra normally didn't ask this question, however, she felt as though she had a different assignment that was more important than protecting Trevor from the wrath of the Rogue Killer.

"No, you have another charge to take care of. Make sure she doesn't get into trouble," Katie replied. Sandra got the message. She might not have been as strong as Katie was, but she wasn't about to fail in her mission to protect the princess. When they were all gone, Cole stayed by her side.

"Do you want to be my bodyguard as well?" she asked the alpha.

"Oh, I wouldn't be much good in this state," the alpha chuckled, reminding her of the pain that still plagued him. It had been two days since the incident, but the royal was still trapped in the pain that he'd got from healing the Mighty Warrior. As compensation for the pain that he was going through, Frank

had promised to take care of Katie during their training and make sure to account for every single injury on her body.

That meant he was to make sure she returned spotless which was easy for a wolf that had her healing speed. To be careful, the hunter had ordered a new set of arrows that was harmless in training although they still hurt when they hit Katie.

“You should probably go and help Sandra protect my sister. The other alphas fear you even in your weakened state which isn’t the...”

“What’s the usurper royal still doing here? I would like to assume the lady has come to her senses and wants to talk to me alone,” Trevor smirked as he walked up to the pair. Cole was the one to make a fist in anger this time.

‘Can you believe I was staying back to try and ask you to control your temper around this dimwit?’ the man’s voice came through the mind link, ‘How can one measly junior hunter be so annoying?’

Katie chuckled at his reaction, “Go ahead, honey. We’ll talk later.” Cole calmed down at the peck on his cheek.

“Don’t let this tiny demon get to you, sweetheart. I’m watching you, junior hunter,” the royal replied, the last part directed at Trevor who he glared daggers at.

The boy chuckled and waited for him to leave. When Cole was out of earshot, he spoke up, “He’s a colourful one. Must be fun having him as a mate.”

“Yes, he’s a real sweetheart. What have you wanted from me since the first day, Trevor?” she asked the boy, feeling uncomfortable with making small talk with the boy.

“Straight to the point, huh. You should really be more respectful of someone who is going to be your senior,” he replied, beckoning for her to follow him.

“I don’t see how you can possibly accept me as a hunter and yet still claim to be my senior. That’s just severely messed up,” the girl replied, slinging her bag over her shoulder and following behind him and his two right-hand men (boys... ahem...)

Trevor led her straight to the stairs only to stop at the stairs, “Am I to expect cooperation from you from this point onwards?”

Katie bit back the remark that threatened to come out of her. “One step at a time, Trevor. I would advise you to stop trying to push your luck.” She replied with a smile on her face. The boy saw straight through it and understood this was as far as she was willing to compromise.

Shrugging, he began to journey to the top floor, “It was worth a try.”

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Lina made her way to the den in high spirits. a feeling she’d forgotten about. For a long time, she wasn’t able to feel like she could fit in with the others, however, Katie’s encouragement and the training she was getting from Sandra and Jason seemed to be teaching her a new way to look at her ‘misfortune.’

She walked into the den, paying no heed to the looks a few of the wolves still gave her. Her destination was already set and her mind wouldn't let go of the images of that day's special. She planned to invite Honour to eat with them as well this afternoon. After all the girl had done for her, she clearly needed to rest for a bit.

Her wolf notified her of something she hadn't taken note of. There was a scent missing in the Den. The scent belonged to the most feared female in the pack. 'Where is Katie?' she froze at the door to the VIP seats. Cole was seated with his alphas flanking him. However, Katie was nowhere to be seen.

"A certain pup can't seem to find her mother," Wyatt wasted no time in utilizing the moment of weakness. He could tell who everyone in this room feared. Cole wasn't in shape to stand up for her and the other two were alphas just like Wyatt and Liam.

Lina concealed her fear and walked up to the chair. A hand appeared on the other side of the chair. Liam eyed her up and down, deciding on whether he should regard the wolf as anything worth allowing to live. "What makes you think that now that your sister is back from the dead, you get to walk around like you own the place?" Liam spat.

"She was probably thinking the princess' words were final. You do know she will move to Lycaon soon enough. What will happen to you then?" this was the very phrase that stopped Cole from reacting when he did. If he reacted now, they would only wait for him to leave and the cycle would start all over again.

When Liam was just about to utter another word, a feminine voice interrupted him, "Are you that scared of the girl?" the table turned their attention to the source of the voice. Jason smirked at what he saw before him. Sandra stared at the alpha, trying her best to keep herself levelheaded while she spoke to him. She'd never fought an alpha before and hadn't been willing to fight one that wasn't Jason in a while, but this one was one she was running out of respect for.

"Oh, did the prodigal daughter's escort suddenly think she might cut in for her? All of you make me sick. Have you ever seen this runt on the battlefield? She's always the first to run away. If you ask me, that's only a skill that's required by a lone wolf," he spat.

"Well, then no one asked you. She's a royal that clearly outranks you. She's faster than you and my guess is that she can handle herself better in a fight compared to you," Lina's eyes widened in shock. Sandra seemed to be giving her ranks she was not yet worthy of.

"Oh, what makes you think that?"

"She's just..."

"Shut up, runt. I'm curious to hear what the junior hunter has to say. I've seen my share of surprises this year and I'm honestly just starting to pick an interest," he cut the girl off.

"You must be mistaken, Liam. Royals are stronger than alphas... far stronger. That being said, Katie wouldn't go to Lycaon and leave her sister without a way to protect herself," she began. The alpha looked between the royal and the junior hunter, so Sandra continued, having got his undivided attention, "I give her to the end of this week and she won't need protection from the likes of you."

"Of course, she doesn't need protection from me. She can always run away," Liam scoffed at the seemingly obvious detail.

“Then let me rephrase that. By the end of this week, you’ll be the one needing protection from her, should you ever get onto her bad side,” the girl replied, keeping her voice as calm as she could. Lina couldn’t believe what she was hearing. She was being handed over to the likes of Liam mercilessly and yet she was sure there was no way of beating him if they were ever matched up.

Liam began to laugh after hearing the words that came from Sandra. Crysta came in at that exact moment to find the boy laughing. She took her seat at the table between the already present Bree and Ginger, “What’s so funny?” she asked.

“You just missed the craziest claim in all history. Sandra just said the runt will be capable of beating me by the end of the week. I would have her locked up for such a thing, but it was too good of a joke for me to take seriously,” he replied, taking his seat at the table.

Crysta eyed the junior hunter, trying to decipher what could have made her say such a thing. She’d been paying attention to Lina during the training and had noticed her slowly changing attitude towards training. She didn’t freeze up when approached and even spoke freely with Cole and the alphas of the Lycaon empire. “What are you afraid of then? What do you say to a little challenge?” the delta spoke up, finally getting her to take on the matter.

The table fell dead silent. Liam was stunned by the bold move the delta had taken. ‘How did it get to this?’ Cole groaned, however much he’d noticed Sandra driving the conversation to this exact point. She had Liam right where she wanted him. “End of the week then... We’ll decide the place during the trip.”