

Chosen 171

171 Chapter One Hundred Seventy One

The top floor was like a different part of the school. Junior hunters swarmed the place, doing different manner of leisure activities. While some were always reading to make sure they could fall back on studies when a Prometheus gift failed to present itself, the others that were more confident took on different things like table tennis and pool. Katie nearly asked what a table tennis table was doing in the hunter's lounge, but she decided to ignore it.

Trevor dismissed his henchmen and led the girl to a part of the floor that had been designed like a café, "Well, what do you think?" he asked.

"Well, I haven't seen the whole floor, but so far so good," Katie replied. The first room had been a reception where a female junior hunter worked at the table, letting them in. The second had been straight-up leisure. From quiet to chaos, then a little quiet as there wasn't much chaos in the café part of the floor. She was now getting curious about the other rooms further in. After the café area, the floor was split into two halves by a corridor that was bordered by numerous rooms. She guessed they were all offices, although to whom she didn't know.

"It's not much, but it's a place where all hunters can relax when things get... too complicated," he replied.

"In other words, the junior hunters are allowed to dodge lessons," Katie fished out the hidden message.

"We'd like to use the phrase, 'taking a casual break.'" he replied.

Katie chuckled at the cover-up, "Well, I say it's not okay, considering all of these hunters don't know if they will ever be hunters in the long run," she replied. Prometheus seeks certain qualities in a hunter and this that's taking place right here is burying those qualities," she replied.

"You say this is making them lazy and removing their ability to become hunters, but I say the reverse is true. They are being given the chance to prove that all these distractions cannot keep them from keeping their minds on the target at hand," he countered, "Speaking to someone who wouldn't stay awake in the last lesson, you need a rest as well." A girl walked up to them with a tray holding steaming cups. Within the cups was a liquid that brought numerous memories to the girl.

Tasting the cup with the most imperfections through her increased sense of smell, she picked the cup with the better coffee in it. One more sniff just to be sure it was the right thing. "Someone likes their coffee..." Trevor's voice brought her back to reality.

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"Oh, about resting in the class. I already knew what the teacher was teaching, so you don't have to worry about that aspect of this hunter's life. Besides, I have already received my Prometheus gifts and my license, I don't exactly get to pick a career after graduation," she responded. Her eyes then moved to the different picture frames on the walls. They depicted hunters that had come through the school. Different photos of all shapes and sizes lined the walls, evenly spaced and lightly decorated. Some of them were group photos with labels at the bottom while others were single pictures of head hunters of the past. Some were in black and white which showed how old they were.

Trevor noticed the girl's sudden interest in the pictures, "You know yours could also be up there someday."

"I have enough places I would already like to get my picture taken," she kindly turned him down, "Might we get to the point. I came here to know your intentions. Consider this my way of giving you the chance to explain yourself. It's clear that you won't stop trying to catch my attention. Dazzle me or this is the last time you will be seeing me in this place," she repeated.

"Is the palace that good of a place? I should visit it sometime. To think you're not impressed by all this, you must live in a place lined with gold," the boy joked, however, the girl did not laugh at his humour. Sighing, he placed down his cup of coffee, "Fine, I'll get straight to the point. You know how the junior hunters don't usually get information from the pro hunters. It's only protocol since we haven't proved our worth to the god of mankind just yet. However, there is a bit of information that comes through here and some of it has me worried."

"Are you trying to get a reply from me? I am under no obligation to confirm anything you say. Besides, I haven't been in communication with the other hunters for a while now. I might not be able to confirm what you are asking of me," she replied.

"Fair enough. However, this is serious. I want to make sure we don't fail to do our job in this school. That's keeping the students safe from any form of violence and keeping the peace. That goes for whether the student is a werewolf or a human," he began, his voice losing all humour. He was starting to sound more like a head hunter and Katie found herself marvelling at the transformation.

"For a moment, I could have sworn you didn't know what your job was," the girl chuckled, "what is it that you wish to ask me then?"

"I've heard whispers of the situation with the movement of the rogues. Every bit of information that comes my way is that they are mobilising and gathering within Lycaon. A gathering much larger than anything we've ever seen... and yet, I can't help, but feel like they are drawing our attention away from the small group of rogues that lies in wait inside of Sirius," he continued.

"What makes you think there are rogues in Sirius?" Katie asked him, taking on a serious tone as well. She'd been sensing the eyes of Jeremiah on her for a while. She knew he was always watching her and that he was only waiting for the right time to strike, but couldn't find one without compromising himself. As a result, she was still safe from him, and yet he kept his location hidden enough for her to be unable to find him if she wanted to. It was a hard feeling to live with.

"I don't know if there are rogues in Sirius. I just know they couldn't have left Sirius entirely and that the ones that are left in Sirius might have a special mission to accomplish that's different but related to the mission of the others that are gathering in Lycaon. It feels like a hunch, but I can't help but wonder if it's a possibility and if it is, I don't want the students of this school to have to suffer from this," he explained. His face, for once, showed genuine concern for the students.

"Your suspicions are not far from mine. I know there is a group of rogues in Sirius, but I don't know where. I don't know what their motives are or when it is they will choose to attack and who they will attack. I just know that with rogues being this careful about their actions, you might be onto something.

They might just have hidden motives,” Katie confirmed what she could without giving up information from what Samantha had told her a while ago.

The boy nodded in response to her answer, his eyes glazed over while he thought long and hard. With the little access to information that a junior hunter had, he only had to use his intellect to protect the school. Normally, standard procedures would work just fine, but something had the boy worried that he’d decided to do his own form of investigation into the matter. He had nothing to go on, but all of his hunches hit the mark. Katie was impressed although she didn’t show it.

“Can I make a request, Katie?” the boy asked. He hadn’t touched his coffee since he’d gotten serious. ‘What a waste of good coffee!’ the thought ran through Katie’s head before she replied.

“Depending on how much it requires of me, I will grant it or not,” she replied.

“I know I have been pushing your buttons out there. Forgive me if I find it hard to believe who you say you are. Prometheus has never blessed a wolf with gifts before and you being the first just gets on my nerves somehow. However, I did ask the pro hunters at the Hunter’s Agency and they confirmed you really are one of them even though you haven’t visited the Agency yet. I want to ask for your help during the trip. There is so much I don’t know about protecting a moving group of humans. Please…” this evening was full of shocking times for the royal.

After having been through such trying times with the head hunter, she was shocked to see another side of him. “What makes you act like such an- forgive my language- ass out there?” she tried being calm about it, but it couldn’t be helped. He’d really been pushing his luck.

“To be honest, I had already built a reputation by the time I ran for the head hunter. I was not the best human being at the time and I got the lesson beaten into me by the previous head hunter. Before the boy left, he showed me what it meant to be a hunter. No matter how strong one is, they cannot let that strength get to their heads and they must always act as though they were weak in any situation. The lives of innocents came first before all others along with many other lessons that shape a hunter. When I get back into society, I can’t help but wear the mask of my former self.

It keeps my enemies unaware of my true potential and allows me the chance to keep a low profile while in plain sight,” the boy explained.

“So, you’re just playing the role of a dim-witted leader,” Katie rubbed her temples.

“Don’t say it like that. You make me sound like a clown,” Trevor chuckled before his face went serious once more. “Will you help me?”

“Yes, I will, but you will not be giving me instructions. As for my mentee… She’s busy, most of the time, but if you do happen to get her free, you can fill her in on your plans for the trip. As long as I’m helping out on that, she will as well,” Katie replied. That seemed to wrap up the serious part of their conversation.

“Now that we’ve got that out of the way, are you seriously mated to Prince Lycaon?” the girl nearly choked at the question. ‘How long have you been holding in such a silly question?’ her thoughts rushed while she struggled to regain her composure.

The air was thick with the feeling of defeat as Sandra pinned a royal for the fourth time in a row. Each time she did so with even more ease. Jason stood at the edge of the clearing watching them in silence. He could feel the tension between the two of them. Katie had told them the outcome of her meeting with the head junior hunter at school and Lina was still not speaking to Sandra after organising a fight between her and an alpha she was sure she couldn't beat.

Sandra stood up, panting from the exertion. Her thoughts were muddled, occasionally straying over to her added responsibility to the school. Every time she felt like she was going to buckle under the pressure of all of her responsibilities, she'd remember the responsibilities of one that had earned the name of the Rogue Killer. Katie had never uttered a word of defiance when she was given a task and she'd climbed through the ranks through sheer hard work.

It was insane and abnormal to think about, but Sandra had watched it all happen. She'd watched the gap between her and her friend grow considerably fast until she was skilled enough to even qualify to be a mentor. It was frustrating to think about, but it also drove her to work harder. The royal had been working hard as well and hadn't had much time to evaluate her progress. Well, she'd rather put that on hold to help Lina anyway.

Looking back at the royal panting on the ground, "Get up, Lina."

"It's pointless. I'll find myself on the ground exactly the same way I am. There is no point to all this," Lina snapped, "So, I'll stay right where I am."

Sandra hadn't told Katie of this recent development for fear of what reaction she would be getting. Her job had been to protect the royal and she'd gone and booked her a fight for the weekend, "Are you still mad at me for setting up that fight?"

"Well, naturally..." Lina replied calmly, however, her anger didn't seem to relay the message. The girl turned her head in the direction of her sister on the other side of the clearing. The hunter was learning something else that day and finally had her hands on a bow. The Mighty Warrior, as usual, was taking her through training that was unlike anything the juniors were taught. Lina's face was sad and bore a sense of longing.

"What about her?" Sandra asked.

"Every time we make plans, something comes up. I can't help but wonder if the trip we are having this weekend has something behind it. We had planned to have spent time as a family this weekend, but Uncle Sean had to go and ruin everything. I can't even begin to imagine where he got a crazy idea like this one," she said. Sandra was at a loss for words.

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"You've been thinking of that for some time, haven't you?" she replied, offering the royal a hand and helping her up.

"Yes, I have been thinking about it a lot. I'm always thinking about things I will never get to be a part of," her voice got higher.

“Well, look at the bright side. If you can pull off this fight with Liam this weekend, then you won’t have to think that way for much longer,” Sandra tried veering the girl to the point of their coming to the clearing.

Lina thought through what the girl had said. Sandra hadn’t noticed just how true her words were and chose to remain ignorantly pleased with the results, “Very well, we shall continue this painful training of yours. However, I need a way to get better faster. At this rate, I won’t be able to...”

“You might want to stop thinking that way. There is no shortcut to power. Only through discipline can you get where you want to be,” Sandra scowled at the girl who only pouted at her response.

“You’re no fun. There is always a way through to power that doesn’t involve as much work as you are putting in,” the thought was enticing and Sandra found a little trouble shaking it even after nodding in denial.

“I wouldn’t be surprised if someone untalented was thinking that way, but you have got speed that trumps that of any wolf that has ever been known. If there was one as fast as you, I would be surprised we never heard of it. Take pride in that and focus on learning how to use it to your advantage,” Sandra took a stab at a pep talk. This was normally Katie’s job and she found her mind drained from only saying the few words she had.

Lina sighed in response. Shaking the thoughts from her mind, “Let’s just get this over with. I won’t lose to Liam this weekend,” Lina replied. To Jason, the girls before him were similar in more ways than one. They’d both been surpassed by their peers and were pushing themselves to catch up. His mind wandered to Caden.

‘How is he?’ he asked Caden through the mind link.

‘He’s going into the sick phase of his healing process. The doctor has him isolated in his room. I asked her to keep this situation under wraps so that the alpha would heal in secrecy, but he isn’t looking good,’ Caden replied.

‘Keep an eye on him, Caden. We just have to wait two more days and he’ll be back to normal,’ the alpha replied, his chest growing tight with worry for his alpha.

‘I know... It doesn’t make it any easier to watch,’ Caden replied, replacing the towel on the alpha’s head. Cole wanted to swap the alpha’s caring gesture, but he barely had the energy to do so. “You don’t have to spend your time here with me, you know. You could go out and look for your mate. You did turn eighteen and you can’t know where and when she might pop up,” the royal spoke. Caden allowed the man’s words to travel through the mind link so that his friend could hear him as well.

“You don’t usually say such things when you are healthy. I’d rather search for my mate once you’re back to full health,” he replied. Cole’s mind was barely conscious by the time Caden was done talking to him. ‘His temperature worries me...’

‘Let’s stay strong for him,’ Jason replied, turning his attention back to the training females before him. It seemed Lina had no interest in getting beaten by him today. Nonetheless, there was more than training to distract the wolf. He could spend his free time watching Sandra... That was more than he could ask for.

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“What...” the girl asked once again. It was the second time she was hearing the Mighty Warrior say this, but she hadn’t yet allowed it to sink in. Frank, on the other hand, was glad to repeat it as many times as he needed to.

“I said, I decided you were too strong to use a normal bow and had one made custom made for you. It isn’t as good as mine is considering I’m awesome. More than you can hope to imagine, but it will definitely be an improvement for you. How many arrows can you shoot consecutively?” the man asked her.

It was then that Katie remembered the times when she was determined to beat the Rogue king with her bare hands. As a result of this, she had been very lazy with her archery training. Once she’d been able to shoot two arrows in quick succession, she’d abandoned the art and only focused on getting a better aim, “Oh, can we learn something that’s not archery, I forgot my bow... The one that you just announced to have got for me... yeah, that one...” the girl tried, futility reeking.

The Mighty Warrior stared at the girl with a look she’d never seen before. ‘Is that supposed to be shocking?’ the girl thought. “Well, I guess the all-perfect Katie Chase is not so perfect after all,” was the first thing the man thought.

“Is that a good thing or a bad thing? I am trying to understand what’s making you so happy,” she asked him, letting her shoulders drop in embarrassment.

“No, it’s neither. For a moment there, you were starting to sound like the perfect and model child who never skipped on any assignment and worked themselves to death. What kept you from learning archery?” the man asked her.

“Well, I always claimed I would take down the Rogue King with my bare hands,” Katie looked at her hands and let the memory of Cole fighting Frank flow through her. She could tell how weak she was compared to the two of them. Her speed was an added advantage, but when it came down to it, she was useless if she couldn’t overwhelm her foe. She didn’t want to underestimate the Rogue king, so it was safe to assume she couldn’t lay a finger on him in her current state, “Now that I look back on that wish, I don’t think I am capable of it.”

“Oh, dearie... Why do you look so down? Last time I checked, you have the strength Prometheus gift as well. What makes you lose faith in that?” Frank asked, getting closer to her and pulling up her chin so she looked him in the eye.

“Cole showed me the memories of the fight you had with him. What good was your strength Prometheus gift against him? I’ve spent a lot of time teaching myself to fight... All for what, to just grow up and realise I need to learn how to use a bow and arrow if I’m to ever see my goals realised,” Katie barked. Her voice was bitter and it stung in more ways than one.

“You’re the moon goddess’ Chosen and so is Cole. What you two possess is nothing like the other wolves. You should never compare Cole to anyone else for he is the only wolf of his kind in the whole world. Don’t doubt your strength because of what you... Wait, you can share memories?” Frank asked all of a sudden.

“Yeah. Why do you sound so surprised?” Katie asked.

The man before her thought for a bit before answering, “I was just wondering what it would be like to share memories. Definitely ruins my image in front of my student. Now get up. As soon as you can shoot three arrows in quick succession, we shall not call it a day,” Katie could tell that the man was not joking when he said this. She, therefore, chose to try her best even though he was asking too much of her.

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Finally done and completely drained of all bodily strength, the girl dropped to her knees and hugged the ground, “I could sleep right here,” she told her trainer.

“I know that, but I won’t be letting you do that if I’m to avoid another beating from your boyfriend,” Frank replied, picking the tired girl up like she weighed nothing.

“Are you planning on carrying me all the way back to the palace?” Katie asked him lazily. She hid the excitement of having to get to the castle without using any energy from the man.

“You don’t seem to have the energy to make the trip, so I’m helping,” he replied, starting the walk back to the palace. Lina and the others had already left them and the sun had only recently set. Without even realising it, Katie fell asleep in the man’s arms. “Figures...” Frank sighed. Even when he was trying to keep her from pushing herself too hard, the girl was doing so.

Just when he was about to tell her to rest, she’d succeeded in what they were trying to do. The walk to the palace was a quiet one. The wind was cold against the hunter’s skin. Nightlife in the forest was starting to get active. It wasn’t like the man hadn’t been through forests his whole life. He’d walked through many of them during the hunts they had in neutral territory. However, never had he been forced to take notice of the nature around him.

The trees swayed to and fro in a beautiful rhythm that sapped the man of his exhaustion. The wind blew at the right pace and it made him want to stop and take a rest. He took one more look at Katie and realised just how peaceful she was sleeping in the wild. ‘Could this sudden change be because of you?’ the man thought to himself. He shook his head to clear the thoughts that swarmed his mind, ‘No, that’s crazy. No one has power over nature. These two have got me on my toes that it feels like I’m starting to hallucinate a number of things.’

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“Get up, Katie...” Frank nudged the girl once they were at the gates of the palace. Yawning, the royal woke up and took in her surroundings. Once she had her bearings right, she took a step towards the gate only to realise Frank was not going in with her. She looked back at him, “This is where I get off,” he said to her.

“Oh, okay then. Thanks for carrying me home,” the girl replied. The two bid themselves farewell and went their separate ways. Unbeknownst to Katie, she was being watched by a pair of wolves. These werewolves she knew and trusted. This kept her radar from picking up on their spying behaviour.

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“What are we going to tell her? Do you think she’ll react well to the Alpha’s state?” one of the spying wolves asked the other.

“You know Caden. You need to let loose once in a while. She’ll be fine. After all, he’ll only be like this for a few more days,” Jason replied. They watched as the girl reached the stairs and started her ascent into the palace.

“Here goes nothing,” Caden replied. The two of them left their spots and waited for their Luna at the top of the stairs that would sooner get her to her room. Katie reached them only moments later and narrowed her eyes at them.

“You’re hiding something,” she guessed immediately.

Jason went to speak and found that his words got caught in his throat. Seeing his friend’s dilemma, Caden stepped in, “We just want to make sure you don’t freak out when you see him.”

Jason looked down in embarrassment, “Yeah, that’s what we are here to do. Alpha Cole is not doing so well and we hoped to cushion the blow before you got to see him.”

Katie was gone from sight before he was done with his sentence. The girl ran towards their room as fast as her exhausted legs could carry her. The alphas remained silent for a bit before turning to follow her. They found her beside her mate, checking his temperature. Cole hadn’t responded to anything in the past hours and the two alphas were starting to worry. Although this wasn’t the first time, they were seeing him in this state, it never got easier.

Sensing his mate’s touch, the royal stirred, his eyes fluttering open to meet her teary ones, “You know I will be better in a few days from now.” Since getting bedridden, the royal hadn’t been able to think clearly, but Katie’s presence made him want to try.

“A few days from now is not now, Cole. You look like you’re on your deathbed,” the girl replied.

The prince chuckled, “I must rock the dead look since you still look like you can’t take your eyes off me.”

Katie couldn’t help but smile at his humour. Even in this state, the man had the audacity to joke, “You’re such a dummy.” she replied before turning to the two alphas before her. “You can leave the rest to me, Caden, Jason...”

“Yes, Luna,” they responded, shutting the door on their way out. Katie sighed and reached for a towel on her mate’s head.

“I’ll just have this changed for you,” she responded. Her instincts kicked in and she began grooming her mate. She ordered food for the two of them brought through the mind link and made sure Cole. When the food was brought to her, she made sure to help him take in what he could at a pace that he could manage.

“You have to eat something you know,” she argued when he finally gave up on eating any more than she’d given him.

“It all tastes like it was made in a sewer,” he complained.

“Well, if you weren’t as ill as you are, you would appreciate it, but since you aren’t, you don’t get to criticise anything with a tongue that dysfunctional,” she replied.

Cole groaned, “I don’t have to eat to survive. I’ll be fine. This is torture.”

“No, what’s torture is me having to worry for you while you arrogantly reject the food that’s supposed to save you,” she snapped at him. The girl sighed upon realising her outburst, “I’m sorry. I didn’t mean to yell.”

“It’s okay. How about this then?” the man suggested, beckoning for the girl to bring her ear closer. He whispered something into her ear that got her cheeks flushed and sent shivers down her spine.

“Okay then... Eat up,” she responded, trying her best to pay no heed to what he’d just said.

Cole wore a look of triumph as he willingly accepted, “Yes, ma’am.”

Katie giggled at his silliness, her mind wandering back to the time she’d been crippled and unable to do much. He’d done anything and everything he could to make sure she was never lacking anything. It was as though he was trying to make her forget her condition at the time. “This takes me back.”

Cole’s mind had been wondering the same thing, “Only difference is that I know I will get better. You were in a bad place back then.”

“Yes, yes I was...” she sighed. Cole finished his meal and was fast asleep before long. Katie replaced the towel on his forehead with another and made the bed beside him before she could get some sleep herself. Her mind wandered to the words he’d only just whispered to her and a smile graced her face... ‘Sneaky...’

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As time went on, the day for the trip finally arrived. With more training from Sandra and a lot of exhausting sessions with Frank, the two sisters were different. Sandra complained, for what was the umpteenth time since they’d woken up that morning, “But I don’t want to have to do it. Patrol is boring...”

“I know it is, but we have to so that we can keep the peace with Trevor. Just bear with me for now. Besides, you could learn a thing or two from these hunters,” Katie tried.

“I don’t have much to learn from them that you can’t teach me. We both know that Katie,” the girl huffed.

“Well, if you two could stop bickering, I would like my sensei to take me through some last-minute drills before we have to go back to the palace,” Lina interrupted the girl’s conversation.

Katie raised her hands in surrender, “Oh, don’t let me keep her. Break a leg, sister. Not literally though.”

Sandra groaned, dragging Lina from the hunter, “You owe me for this, Katie.” Katie was left to contemplate if she meant training her sister or cooperating with Trevor. Two arms wrapped around her waist and pulled her into an embrace. Cole placed a kiss on the girl’s shoulder.

“Those two are quite lively,” the man’s sudden actions sapped her of her strength once again, a feeling she just couldn’t get used to.

“Yeah, they try their best. I actually like watching them make progress,” she replied, trying her best to ignore the tingles that littered her body.

“Well, there is a lot that’s been happening with your presence here,” Cole replied.

“Oh, would you like to enlighten me?” she asked.

“Well, would you look over there?” Cole replied.

Katie turned to see none other than Crysta. However, the person she was training was the last person anyone would have expected. The girl was training Honour, Lina’s best friend. Most of the wolves were still trying to interpret the meaning of this. The information that had reached Katie was that Crysta had stopped associating with Liam and Wyatt and instead taken a liking to the young girl that was Honour. No one knew why and no one opposed her considering there weren’t many that could stand against her. The last one to do so had gotten his face in the dirt.

“Well, I’m not sure that has something to do with me,” Katie said, absentmindedly. It was the day of the trip and excitement filled the air. It was extremely unusual to have a class move out in such a large number and most of them were excited. Katie, on the other hand, was getting the largest danger detection on her radar. The feeling in her gut... It reminded her so much of Brigadia... “Keep on your toes, Cole.”

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The classes that were meant to go on the trip all met in the large parking lot at the back of the main school building. Chaotic noises came from all the students as many of them had different things to talk about. Excitement was in the air filling most of them. Trevor held up a roll call sheet, reading out the names of the different students that were supposed to be present along with the junior hunters that had been allowed to go along with them.

Katie arrived only moments before her name was called out with her gang of latecomers. The part of her group that had already been called out made sure to clear with him. It was a habit she wasn’t looking to break and no one was willing to stand up to her on the matter either. It wasn’t like she was looking for a straight-up student report at the end of the school year.

“They are... fewer than I thought they’d be,” Katie noted. In her mind, the group that was going to have this trip was a swarm of troublemakers that was going to turn the lives of the junior hunters into hell on earth. Alas, the total headcount was right under one hundred and fifty which Katie considered a considerable number of students. “Shouldn’t be that much trouble.”

“That’s what they all say before the students decide to go wild in the woods. Mainly the werewolves in the group, with all of them thinking they are superior to the creatures out there,” Cole responded. Katie had almost forgotten he’d been a werewolf in his earlier school days.

“Are you speaking of yourself?” she asked him.

“No, just the many students I had to go out to look for when they wandered a little beyond pack territory. They can be unruly sometimes. Thankfully, the pack link allows the other wolves to be able to communicate with them and get to know their location. It’s even easier with mates,” he mentioned.

“You don’t say...” Katie dragged off into another one of her thoughts. Pinning an idea, she shook her head free of the thought and jogged up to the head hunter standing on a table taking note of the last of the students. “Hey, Trevor...”

“When did those two become so chummy?” Sandra grumbled when she noticed the way Trevor had stopped picking on Katie. In fact, one could say they had become friends, “One conversation. Is that all it took for him to have her wrapped around his finger?”

“I wouldn’t think the Luna would let anyone control her. It’s just not a part of her nature. I would think there is some sort of mutual understanding between the two of them,” Jason replied, putting his hand around the junior hunter, “Cheer up, Sandra. Didn’t you hear the place Prince Sean chose for us to visit?”

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“No, I didn’t. I missed that part of breakfast,” she replied.

“Well, it’s a rare occurrence and one that you will enjoy very much. We are going to one of the two only game reserves in the entire world. The Sirius wildlife game reserve... One of the only places that were put aside to protect wildlife,” Jason said with pride filled in his voice.

“I haven’t heard of such a thing. Why would a reserve be needed to protect wildlife? Isn’t wildlife all it is? Protecting seems like a waste of resources. It would be like tending to wild animals,” the girl replied, her mind rushing through the many injustices this arose in her mind.

Jason thought through this for a bit before answering, “As you just said, you have never heard of such a thing. Today, you will get to see one. I hope to be impressed. I went to the one in the Lycaon empire. It was nothing short of breath-taking. The perks of being one of the prince’s right-hand men,” he puffed out his chest in pride.

“What was that you just said?” Sandra asked. Her ears had unnervingly picked up something through his whole explanation that was beside his point.

“The part about having gone to the reserve in...”

“No, after that...”

“The one where it was breath-taking or the part where I hope to be impressed,” Sandra pinched the bridge of her nose.

“Try the phrase that got you so proud of yourself,” she said quietly.

“Oh, the part where... Oh, you’ve never heard me say that have you?” he asked.

“No, I’ve never. I thought you and Cole were simply best friends,” Sandra sounded sad as she spoke to him.

“Well, yeah, we are best friends. And who better to become his beta alpha than his two best friends,” Jason replied, puzzled at the sudden change of mood, “Is there something wrong?”

“I read once that a beta alpha is bound by his alpha’s command,” she replied.

“Oh yeah, that’s true, but that hasn’t happened yet?” he replied, a smile gracing his face.

“Why would you say that?” she almost reminded him of the numerous times Cole had compelled him without him even noticing. Now that she thought about it, she realised Cole hadn’t realised what he was doing either. All his requests were never meant to be orders and yet...

“Because the king of Lycaon has not yet been changed. It’s only after Cole becomes king that we’ll take our place as his Beta alphas,” he replied. A multitude of arguments lined up in the observant junior hunter’s mind, but she chose to hold her tongue just this once. Her questions didn’t seem to have a happy conclusion and that worried her even more than what was happening to Jason and Caden.

“Are you kidding me?” Katie’s voice reached their ears and caught their attention. Trevor had come down from the table and rubbed his temples as he spoke to the agitated royal.

They all came to meet them to figure out what the fuss was all about, “What is it, Katie? Am I to put a hole in the hunter’s gut?” Cole began, smirking at the boy.

“You don’t scare me, runt,” Trevor returned, keeping his cool as well against the royal. Cole was impressed by the boy’s composure even when he flashed his eyes at him.

“Well, turns out we won’t be receiving help from the Hunter’s Agency. They say the hunters that protect the reserve will be more than enough help in keeping the students safe. And my presence seems to be an added advantage,” Katie explained.

“Well, what about Frank? Can’t you ask him to come?” Caden asked.

“Well, the last part was his words. My hands are tied in this case. Can we just get the students loaded up? I won’t let this small detail ruin my first visit to a preserve. One that was proudly named after me, no less,” Katie chirped up.

Cole reached out to point to tell the girl that she’d gotten that small detail wrong, but she proudly sauntered away, “I think she’s enjoying this a little too much,” he concluded with a nervous laugh.

“She’d better. It’s almost impossible to get the chance to visit the reserve without hiring hunters. In other words, she’s been hired to guard this group of students. I don’t know what kind of skill one requires to be trusted with this many students,” Trevor responded before turning to leave.

“Make sure you follow her orders if she ever gives you any,” Cole warned.

“Yeah, whatever,” the boy replied, without another glance. Another group of students arrived with a little bit more luggage than was required and he went up to them to make sure they were on the list. Once he was sure that everyone was around, he informed the teachers that were going with them and took his place at the table once more to make one more announcement. ‘It was time to load up the bus and get going.

Katie, on the other hand, had fished something out of her pocket to dial a number that she'd not spoken to in a while. She cursed herself for having waited this long to call them, but in the end, she had to talk to them. It was far too important for her to hold off. She waited patiently as the call went through. The momentary memory of her sister telling her of the way their father handled all the phone bills regardless of how far they were willing to communicate popped into her mind before the other side of the call picked up, "Hello... Can I know who I'm speaking to?" tears pricked the girl's eyes. She hadn't heard the voice of the woman who'd raised her for so long she'd not known how much she missed her.

"Hi, it's Katie..."

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The phone remained silent for a while after the girl had replied. She could hear the woman on the other side of the phone gasp when she heard the voice of her adoptive daughter. It had been so long. A moment later, she spoke up, "Let me get, Tom so we can all... talk, okay?"

"Yeah, I would like that," she replied. There was a lot of commotion on the other side of the communication and Katie could swear she heard the woman say, 'Tom, hurry up. Our daughter just called. She wants to know the famous recipe that you always bragged about in your disastrous morning pancakes,' the girl giggled at the accusation.

"What, really... Let me come. She shouldn't go anywhere. I have it all inscribed in my head," the man's voice was getting louder accompanied by a few crashing sounds akin to that of furniture. Katie cringed at what he must have been going through to reach his wife, "The trick is to get them a little bit charred. Just a little bit..."

The two women laughed at his explanation, "Yes, honey, we know that part quite well," Aunt Marie replied. The sound of her adoptive parents laughing was heavenly to the girl's ears and she wished they could be together again and have one of their coveted picnics in the woods. Memories wouldn't stop crashing into the girl's mind the longer she listened to them.

They soon noticed her absence and called out to her, "Hey, Katie. What happened to your previous phone? I don't think I recognise this number?"

"Oh, it fell into the water and I pretty much lost everything that was in it. This is another one Lina got for me. Courtesy of the king," she replied.

"You mean your super-rich father," her adoptive mother cooed.

"I know right. I imagine her riding in the back of a limo and having the time of her life in the city. Don't lose out on your training. Cole can be a trouble maker, but you're also a hunter and you have a duty to the hunters," her adoptive father added.

"Yeah, I hear you, Uncle Tom. And you know I don't fancy cars and luxurious life. I won't lie though. Life is not half bad in the city. I have a lot of fun. It has its share of problems, but nothing I can't handle," Katie replied.

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“That’s good to hear. However, we did know that you’d call home today. What’s the matter, Katie?” her father’s voice got serious all of sudden.

“Leave it to a Chase hunter to always be a step ahead,” she mused before answering, “We are visiting the Sirius game reserve today. A group of two classes and I’ve been assigned as the only professional hunter to escort them. I don’t like the feeling I’m having about this,” she replied.

“That’s odd. The rogues are gathering in Lycaon. What makes you feel like they are gathering there instead,” she responded.

“I didn’t say anything about the rogues gathering in Sirius. However, there is a group of them that stayed behind in Sirius. I don’t know where they are or how to locate them, but I am sure that they are always watching my every move,” she replied.

“Well then, if that’s the case and they aren’t as many as the ones that attacked Brigadia last time, then I would ask that you stay vigilant. After all, we got a report from Cupid Shooter. You’ve made scary progress in the past five days that he’s been training you,” Aunt Marie responded.

“Oh, yes, I’ve made a bit of progress. I can definitely try to do what the Thunderbolt can now... Although, just a few of them before I’m too tired to push further. I won’t resort to that unless it’s to save a life,” she answered.

“Did you see the bow we sent you?” Uncle Tom asked her. Just then, the girl felt the small bag on her back get heavier. Earlier that morning, Frank Silver had given her the bag as a good luck charm, but she hadn’t taken a look inside.

She fumbled to take the bag from her back while her adoptive parents pondered her silence, “She hadn’t opened the bag, had she?”

“No, my love, she hadn’t yet. Frank probably wanted her to be surprised when she saw it.

The first thing Katie saw when she opened the bag was a black and red quiver. She took the quiver out and marvelled at the unique design of red streaks that went around the black quiver and arrows as well. “Since your nose is sensitive to wolfsbane, we made sure to leave the wolfsbane out of the order. You should be able to take down rogues just as easily. I hope you won’t have to deal with many though,” Aunt Marie’s voice.

“This must be the second most exciting gift I’ve had since I came here,” the girl marvelled, “Thank you very much.”

“Second... Did someone upstage us? Do you have another bow or maybe a katana? I know you’re not the kind of person to take a bouquet of flowers,” her adoptive father came through the other side.

“Well, it was nothing like that. I would also like that gift to be a surprise,” the girl, placing the phone down beside the bag while she picked out something she never thought she’d own.

Inside the bag was a folded metallic device she’d only seen with one person. She took note of the designs on this one as the red streaks this time came from the very centre of the device. She had to see it in its full glory. Her memory returned the motions Cupid Shooter usually went through when unfurling

his bow and she marvelled as the two ends of the bow came out from their resting positions and stretched a black string taught.

The red streaks had been well designed to radiate from the front of the bow and outwards in a fiery behaviour. It made the bow look menacing. "We call it the Phoenix bow," her mother's voice came.

"It's beautiful," she replied.

"Woah," a voice came from the back of the bus. Katie had gone to the other side of it for privacy. Sandra couldn't take her eyes off the marvel before her. "Where did you get that?"

"My parents sent it. Isn't it amazing?" Katie replied.

"Hey, Sandra. How is Sirius treating you?" Aunt Marie's voice screamed through the phone.

"Oh, it's all fine. How are my parents?" she asked them.

"Your parents are fine. We aren't in Brigadia though. We'd call them if that was the case. You should borrow Katie's phone and make a quick call before you go on that trip. Do your best to enjoy the visit to the reserve," the woman spoke back.

"Well, I still don't understand how protecting wildlife allows it to remain wildlife, but I will see what the reserve has to offer," the girl sounded skeptical of the marvels they were bound to see at the reserve.

"Oh, you've never been to a reserve... I will refrain from spoiling the experience. Keep an open mind though," the woman replied. Katie could practically feel the smile on her adoptive mother's face as she said this.

"Katie, is that bow the same one issued for Frank?" the girl asked.

"Yeah, it is... Want to try it out?"

"Well, the string is said to be so taut that someone without a strength Prometheus gift cannot pull it one inch. I don't think I would be able to use it even if I tried," the girl chuckled nervously. Once again, Katie marvelled at her friend's wide range of information.

"Sometimes I wonder where you get the time to read all that," she replied before trying the string herself. Just as her friend had said, the string didn't budge one bit. It was so strong she couldn't move it one bit even when she tried hard. It was only when she let the power of her strength Prometheus gift that the string gave way to her tries. It was only then that she noticed gears at the side letting more of the string out. The mechanism that let an arrow from this bow fly was complicated and calibrated to handle in insane strength of hunters with the strength of Prometheus' gifts.

"It makes sense why his arrows are so blindingly fast when he chooses to get serious when using his bow," Katie mumbled.

"Have you gotten the chance to see him serious with his bow?" Aunt Marie asked.

"Once before..." memories of the time he'd saved her from Jeremiah bombarded her mind. She'd barely noticed the man's arrows that time, but she thought that was only because she hadn't been focused on

the arrows. It was only then that she realised he'd been taking it easy on her during their training. "The Mighty Warriors are scary people."

"You can say that again," Uncle Tom replied, "Katie, I don't know how important this information is to you, but we feel your presence in Lycaon will be very important in the near future. We don't know how soon, but it's like a war is brewing. The palace in Lycaon is guarded heavily. It feels like a repeat of the war eighteen years ago. Keep on your toes..."

"I will..." Katie replied. Sandra took note of the warning. She got the feeling the bow in her friend's hands was going to be important sooner rather than later.

"Oh, Katie, I meant to tell you that the bus is all loaded up. We have to get going," Sandra told her right when the engine of the massive vehicle roared to life, sending rocking vibrations through the bus.

"Very well..." Katie replied. She bid her parents farewell, promising to call them later on... 'As long as I don't lose my phone again...' she told herself with a grimace. They were ready to go... It felt like the start of an interesting adventure. Katie couldn't deny the goosebumps it gave her. She entered the bus and took a seat beside Cole. The prince wrapped his arm around her and pulled her into an embrace, wrapping a warm scarf around her as well. The sun wasn't out yet and the wind seemed to keep the environment cold. 'Thanks...' she thanked him through the mind link.

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In a location unknown to the royal families, well, except for one person that was yet to be unveiled. Deep within the dungeons of the small establishment, chains fell to the ground as a guard began to uncuff one of their prisoners, "I'm glad you finally came to your senses. The king will be very pleased with the decision you've made," the guard spoke up, cleaning the boy's wounds to the best of his abilities with the cloth he'd brought.

However, the grime that covered the boy eventually proved to be too much for him and soiled the cloth beyond recognition, "I have no idea what had come over me, but the king can rest easy knowing that I am fully on his side in this war. I would like to see that girl on her knees after all. After all the humiliation she's put me through, it's the least I could wish for," the boy replied.

"Ah, revenge. Hold on to that. It's a powerful tool that will keep you at your sharpest," the guard helped him up and led the yellow-eyed boy out of the cell. Kyle could not believe the torture had come to an end and not to mention it was all because of the same person he now claimed to despise. His position among the ranks of the rogues had not yet been compromised for as much as he knew and as long as it stayed that way, he could continue to be of help to the ones he rightfully served.

"Where are we going?" Kyle asked the man in front of him.

"I am taking you to your room. It is where you'll be staying. You also need to take a bath. You stink like rotten wolfsbane. We can't have a high ranking rogue smelling like the pit of werewolf hell," the man commented, cringing at his own descriptions. Kyle sighed and simply let him take the lead. The corridors were dimly lit by candles on the walls. From the cold in the air, he could tell that they were underground, however, that was all he could know.

"Do you know where we are?" Kyle asked him.

“There are reasons why you were brought here unconscious and reasons why you leave here unconscious. There aren’t many people in this world that know the location of this place. I’m afraid I don’t know where we are,” the man replied, “And even if I knew where we were, the rogue king is the only one that can permit you access to such information, so I wouldn’t be telling you without his permission.”

Kyle sighed once again and let their conversation simmer down. He was walking a little bit longer before the man piped up again, “So the reports about you meeting this person that you named the rogue killer. Were they all make-believe?”

‘Why did everything have to circle back to that one pesky little werewolf girl,’ Kyle internally screamed.

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‘You will do well to respect our alpha,’ his wolf piped in mentally.

‘I know, I know... Old habits, I guess...’ “No, those stories were real. Every single one of them. I saw it with my own eyes, you know.”

“How did you see it with your own eyes when you’re a rogue as well?” the guard asked.

“There is clearly a lot you don’t know about me it seems... I was the spy that was sent to Brigadia to collect information on a certain person that was said to pose a threat to the Rogue King himself. I didn’t know how important or how dangerous that person would be until I met them. Living undercover was never easy. Watching more spies coming in with different missions. Doing my best to keep them in line. They got themselves killed due to their arrogance as well. I even lost count of the number of rogues that died at the hands of that one hunter,” the boy mused. His mind was torn between pride and fear. He knew he had nothing to fear from the girl as she wasn’t his enemy anymore and yet he was proud of how strong she’d become. All at the same time, he had watched her mercilessly bring down rogues that tried to infiltrate Brigadia.

“No one said anything about a hunter. You were sent to observe a werewolf,” the man argued.

“Oh, I was observing a werewolf alright. I would tell you more about my findings, but I believe the rogue king would want to hear from me himself,” Kyle boasted.

The man remained silent for a bit before answering, “If that’s the case, then you might want to bathe as fast as you can. The king will be leaving quite soon and he does not like to be kept waiting.” Stunned by this response, Kyle began thinking through the numerous changes this sudden movement was going to bring. He’d thought the king would stay in this specific facility where he would lead the others and put an end to all this, but now he didn’t know how that was going to work.

They finally reached a door to a room that the guard stood beside. Kyle hadn’t been paying attention to his surroundings as it had now gotten a lot brighter and he could feel the breeze coming from outside. He pushed open the door to the room the guard beckoned for him to enter. The only window in the room stared directly into the stump of a tree, shielding any sort of clue as to where he was. The floor, walls and roof were made entirely out of wood and based on the slight sway of the floor when he walked across it, he could tell he was in a building built entirely out of wood.

The guard noticed his wonder and launched into an explanation, "This entire building is made of wood and designed to camouflage as part of the impenetrable part of the story. Someone can look at this very facility and think it was just dense plant life."

"Brilliant," Kyle replied before checking out his alleged room. All basic supplies had been set up for him. All except for a phone, which meant he wouldn't be communicating with the outside world. It didn't matter to him anyway. He merely had to wait for his master to fall asleep and approach him in the night through the link they shared. To one side of the room, he noticed another door and walked over to it. Inside was a shower, a toilet and everything he needed to freshen up, 'How do they get the water to run without giving up their location?' he thought to himself.

"I'll have a fresh set of clothes brought to you. In the meantime, soak up and get ready to meet the king," the man announced before leaving in a hurry.

"Won't mind if I do," Kyle said more to himself while he filled the bathtub with warm water, 'Where do they even get warm water from?'

Kyle was only in the shower for three minutes when loud bangs sounded at his bathroom door, "Hey, I thought I was clear when I told you to bathe quickly."

The boy sighed, "So much for enjoying a nice hot bath. At least the smell of rotting wolfsbane is off me.' He hadn't realised how bad it was making him break. The normal air, free of wolfsbane was starting to feel far more refreshing. He'd been deprived of it for far too long that he felt he could nearly taste it. What more could a traitor like him wish for...

"Well, are you going to get out of there or what?" the guard's voice came again. Kyle got out of the shower and wrapped a towel around his body, not failing to notice how toned his body was getting. A side effect that he now knew all too well. It was only a matter of time before this would catch up to him. He would have to find a way to explain his change in physique before the rogues got suspicious. Hiding the colour of his eyes could only get him so far.

Opening the door, "Did I take too long?"

The guard took a short pause before shrugging off the boy's appearance, "Whatever, your clothes are on the bed over there. Get dressed. You're about to meet the rogue king himself. Considering he's asked for you himself."

Kyle hurriedly got dressed when the guard had just left. He was a mess of thoughts and emotions. 'What am I going to even tell him. He knows a lot...'

'Hey, Kyle, stick to what the alpha told you to do. Pretend to be any other kind of spy recruit and make sure you deliver the basic information about Katie,' his wolf intervened, cooling his nerves. 'To think j was still in the spying business...'

"Well, it was only a matter of time before this kind of this got out. I can't believe I get to meet him now, after all these years without any way to contact him," he mused, even though his opinion of the man had changed over the time he'd been in the dungeon. The rogue king was a cruel leader and one that Kyle didn't want to follow. Morals we're still raw and setting in the rogue's mind.

The guard led him on through the numerous dimly lit corridors. He soon began to notice the stairs that led up and down the building. Stairs that he'd barely noticed when they'd been coming up. "Here we are. From here n out, you are alone. I cannot proceed with you through this door. I sure do hope you tell me of your time in Brigadia once you're done explaining it to the rogue king," the man said before walking away. Kyle kept trying to see anything past the plain meaning of the words he'd used. 'Is that man a rogue at all?'

Shrugging off his thoughts, Kyle pushed open the door he'd been brought to and had to cover his eyes at the light that invaded them. The room the king was in was much brighter and much wider than all the others. The light was natural, which meant it came from outside. The scent of freedom in form of forest dew wafted into the boy's nose. He could barely resist the chance to pounce out of the rogue encampment, but he kept his urges to himself.

"So you finally came through to your senses, young spy. I was beginning to think you were a lost cause and a terrible investment," the king spoke up. Kyle allowed his eyes to adjust until he could take in the sight before him. Tables and chairs were arranged in this room to allow it to act as a meeting area. The light from outside came in through windows, however wide, calculated to keep the insides of the room hidden from anyone who happened to pass by.

The rogue king was dressed in black clothes that fitted him quite nicely. What caught the boy's eye was the man's leather overcoat that had precious gems embroidered into it. It was a sight to behold.

At the rogue king's side stood a hulking man dressed similarly. He looked more like a club bouncer and he radiated power on par with that of the king. However, his eyes were red and this told him that he was looking at one of the rogue king's two beta alphas.

"Well, I'm glad I came to my senses as well. I don't know what had come over me," the boy replied with a brief smile on his face.

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Kyle stood in the room, feeling the powers inside the relatively small room crashing down on him. The intense glare he received from the beta alpha was exceptionally hard to ignore. The rogue king was not looking so welcoming either.

Kyle could still remember the first time the two of them had met. When he'd been asked personally to take care of that one little assignment that got him into a school for nine years, "It's been a long time, hasn't it?" Kyle began.

The king's gaze shifted upwards, "Oh yeah, I met you when you were only a little boy. I'd say you turned out well. Even though you're still as skinny as a twig. We can't blame that on you though. Your wolf was being suppressed for all that time. Would you like to get on with your findings? As you might have noticed, I don't have all the time in the world right now?"

"Where are you going?" Kyle asked, completely ignoring the fact that he'd just been given a direct order, however much it had come off as a request.

"You were given a direct order by your king. Would you disrespect him by answering him with a question besides the point? Maybe I should have you taste a little more wolfsbane before you..." the

king raised his hand to stop his beta alpha's rampage. Had he left him to continue running his mouth, the man would have taken it a step further and injured the boy.

"Well, that is not what I asked you. If you answer me well, I might be more inclined to tell you where I'm going. However, it's best that you don't involve yourself in my activities. They do tend to get dangerous," the king replied.

Kyle wanted to ask him if they could go together, but that felt even creepier than the question he'd first asked. If he kept asking questions, it would prove he was up to something, but if he simply let it go, he wouldn't have the right information to report to Katie when he communicated with her next.

"I'll start with the girl you sent me to investigate. I remember asking you to pull me out of that mission at some point when I realised the girl was nothing more than a weak human," Kyle started.

"I sent you to investigate a werewolf by the name of Katie Sirius. Why do I hear you speak of a human?" the king asked.

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"Well, that's simply because her identity was hidden from the people of Brigadia as well. She was called Katie Chase there and believe it or not... She was every bit as human as I was," Kyle began, making a deep dive into the story of how he came to be acquainted with this girl. He spoke of her training to become a hunter and even gave the information of her receiving a Prometheus gift of agility. From what he'd discussed with his alpha, he was to reveal that as her only power.

The rogue king listened quietly as he went through the story, telling him more about Ashley's death. The death of a traitor that he carried out himself. This information pleased the king very much and the boy continued with the story, adding in a grain of lies every now and then to keep the story lively. It was the perfect depiction of a wolf so powerful, the rogues that had attacked never stood a chance. He explained with vivid detail, the times he had watched the girl take down several rogues that had attacked in the middle of the night. She was a force to be reckoned with.

When he was done, he let the king think through the words of his story. There was a lot that had been said and a lot that the king had not yet learned. However, there was a hint of scepticism in the king's voice, "You expect me to believe that this girl I sent you to investigate... somehow managed to get her hands on a Prometheus gift and was suppressing her wolf as well for all those years. Why do I find that very hard to believe?"

"You don't have to believe it. You can check my memories if you would like to. I have spoken only the truth," Kyle replied.

The beta alpha began to speak, "I say he's bluffing."

"Calm down, Aidan. I heard about the dead traitor rogue, but I never could have thought that boy was the one that killed her."

"Your majesty, we saw the rogue killer ourselves. She was a werewolf. She bore no Prometheus gifts. Merely the ability to use a half shift without any effort," the man responded, pleading to his alpha to rethink trusting the boy.

“Well, we can’t trust everything we hear, but in this boy’s case, I trust his words. Alpha Chad was able to communicate in his dying moments. The girl wasn’t normal. This boy was only meant to prove that to me. She might be more of a threat than we think,” his mind was burning through options as a car burns through fuel.

“She might not be as much of a threat as you might think. There is one weakness that every strong person has,” Kyle offered his counsel. The rogue king looked up at him, narrowing his eyes at him.

“And what might that be?” he asked.

“Well, family... and when I say family, I don’t always mean blood relatives. If you were able to capture the people she cares about, you would have everything you need to put her down,” he replied, shrugging, “Easy, wouldn’t you think?”

The rogue king burst into a peal of boisterous laughter that stopped their conversation momentarily. Aidan rubbed his temples at the boy’s statement, “What makes you think it’s easy to capture a member of the royal family?”

“Well, it’s not that easy to capture one. However, if the opportunity ever opened up, you would take it and the girl would have no choice but to give herself up for her family,” he replied.

“You say that like she’ll just choose to sacrifice herself without giving it much thought. She can’t be that reckless,” the king replied.

“There is nothing reckless about wanting to protect one’s family. She will do whatever she can to protect them, even if that means she has to be taken hostage,” Kyle continued, “Those are just my thoughts though. I have no experience in that kind of thing. I just happen to know what matters most to that girl. It’s the reason she amassed so much strength in the first place. To protect those she holds most dear.”

The king thought through what the boy was saying and came to a conclusion, “Aidan, you will remain behind and work with that royal that keeps coming in. Work with him and bring that girl to her knees. It’s crucial that we gain control over her in the coming days. The world is about to know of a new era and I would like the goddess herself to watch as everything the traitors thought they were building is brought to the ground.”

The king’s words sent shivers down Kyle’s spine for he sounded more than confident and Kyle had no idea what he was even talking about. He’d only switched sides recently and had ended up doing the same job he had when he was working for the enemy. After all, it was all he was good at. If he could find out more about the rogue king’s sinister plans, he would be of more use to his master. ‘How did I get myself twisted in such a large web,’ the boy internally groaned.

‘Well, that was probably the day you chose to spy on Katie in the first place,’ his wolf replied. Having a talking wolf was starting to feel normal even though he knew it was a rare occurrence.

The king picked up a small duffel bag and placed contacts in his eyes. Blinking a few times, the man’s eyes swirled and turned amber, “How do I look Aidan?”

“Like the most powerful yellow-eyed to ever walk the earth?”

"I don't doubt your abilities to flatter me, Aidan. I will take my leave now. I leave this place under your care, Aidan. Everything goes through you, is that clear?" the king spoke up.

"Yes, your Majesty. You know I can't let you down," he responded.

Kyle looked the beta alpha up and down when he wasn't looking. 'Looks like I will have to be extra careful around this one. The royals were more relaxed compared to their subordinates. That specific concept worked exceptionally for the beta alphas. Kyle's mind struggled to grasp just how much more dangerous his situation had become.

'I know what you're thinking, Kyle. We'll have to be extra careful from here on out,' the wolf responded before he got the chance to inform him of the gravity of their situation.

They both bid the king farewell and watched as he shifted into his massive starry wolf, dashing into the woods. He was gone quicker than they could think capable. 'He must have trained hard if he was to get to that speed.' Kyle had only seen that kind of speed with the rogue killer. He racked his brain over the matter. 'Could she be faster or not? That's not even it. How does a werewolf even get to that speed in the first place?'

Silence passed between the two males before the beta alpha broke it, "You do realise you're not allowed to be outside like this?"

"Oh, sorry about that. I just thought I'd see him off as well. Any idea where we are?" Kyle asked once again.

"Another thing that the rogue king must permit someone to know about. You won't be getting that information from anyone until you are deemed worthy of that information," the man replied with a hint of malice in his voice.

"Oh, very well, I'll stop asking then. Call on me if you need my services or any more clarification on the Rogue Killer. That is what I was sent to document after all. I could even have a sketch drawn if we have someone of that talent," Kyle mused, his focus pinned on the door that led back into the dark inner parts of the encampment.

"Well, you aren't needed as of yet. I would figure out what to do as my pass time in the meanwhile. The only rules here are that you aren't allowed to step outside. Oh, and one more thing... Keep asking those odd questions and you might just find yourself being questioned by the king himself on what side you're truly on..." Aidan warned. 'Damn, he's good...' the boy painfully observed.

178 Chapter One Hundred Seventy Eight

Kyle had learned how to make his late-night communications at will. It was becoming second nature for him to find himself talking to his alpha in his sleep. He sat in the mental space he'd reconfigured, waiting for his alpha to show up. He knew nothing of what was happening in her life... It didn't bother him no matter how much he wanted to know about her life. After all, he had nearly cost her the lives of countless humans that she'd sworn to protect.

She'd gone and betrayed the only person that cared to know what colour was his favourite, what food he liked to eat, what dreams he had for the future. A tear went down his cheek as the memories of the past went through him. They were so near and yet so distant. He'd singlehandedly destroyed everything

he'd built with her. A mission to be a spy for the rogue king had split his mind and ripped his heart in two.

'I envy you, Ashley,' he whispered into the darkness.

"What was that?" a feminine voice rang out. Katie's voice rang out clearly into his mind and it still bore the same amount of kindness it always had. She didn't bear any hatred towards him and sometimes he let it get to him that they could go back to being the friends they once were. He allowed light to filter into the mental space he'd created, allowing a scene of a beautiful forest to spring to life.

"I was just thinking out loud. How are you, Alpha Katie?" Kyle greeted his alpha.

The girl looked around their surroundings trying to get her bearings while Kyle merely watched her, seated by a tree. "Is this where you actually are or did you manage to alter everything somehow?" she asked him.

"No, I was able to alter everything you see. I am not actually here. Your plan worked... a little more than I thought it would. I have rejoined the ranks of the rogues, however, they have so many secrets even amongst themselves that it seems I am unable to find out much. I am sorry about that," he responded.

"It's okay, Kyle. You did what you could. Could you at least tell me if you've laid your eyes on the rogue king just yet?" she asked him, curiosity getting the best of her.

"The rogue king left early this morning for the kingdom of Lycaon. I'm not sure if that means that the base I currently am is located in Sirius. I can't tell much considering they won't let me know the location of this place without the rogue king's permission," he replied and then went on to narrate everything that had happened that day. "I was sure to tell the story exactly the way you wanted me to. Are you going to tell me why you had me lie about you possessing one Prometheus gift? If they'd checked my memories on that..."

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"They would have found the lie to have been true. Considering what kind of wolf you are, anything I tell you becomes the truth. It doesn't matter if you know what the truth is or not. If I say something, then that is what it shall be," Katie cut him off. The boy's eyes widened in realisation.

"That's very sneaky of you, Katie. I like it..." the boy smirked.

"Oh, shut up, Kyle," the girl chuckled before getting into deep thought once again. I will inform the hunters of this development. I hope everything goes according to plan." She sighed.

"Is the might rogue killer actually scheming in the background?" Kyle asked her, wiggling his brows.

"You make it sound creepy... Stop getting any ideas, Kyle. I'm only doing what won't get me into any more trouble than required. Cole made me promise to keep from making any irrational decisions. Now I've got to play most of my moves smart. It's very hard to keep up with everything that's going on. It was only recently that I discovered my sister was going to go up against one of the alphas in the pack to try and prove her dominance as a royal. It's a stupid idea. I mean, we are trying to fight a real enemy and here are these wolves having rivalry amongst themselves."

Kyle couldn't help but laugh at the girl, "It's like you're forgetting about the relationship you had with Dexter. The two of you were always trying to prove who was above the other. Dexter clearly knew who was more powerful, but his hard-headed nature wouldn't let him give up," the boy explained.

"And he continuously kept trying and trying to get me off guard. Just how many visits to the infirmary was he going to have before he realised he was never going to beat me," Katie sighed.

"Well, if you would ask me, I'd say that was his way of getting your attention," Kyle replied. The bit of information got Katie off guard. When she thought more about it, Dexter had felt like a nuisance at some point, but that made him all the more common in her daily activities. She had to deal with his antics until a time that she warned him to get him suspended.

"Well, I never noticed what he was trying to do then," Katie smiled. Their time was coming to an end.

"One more male that did that was Lionel. I know I wasn't there at the Founder's Festival, but from the previous ceremonies, I could tell that boy wanted you to notice him so badly," he replied.

Katie's cheeks got flushed, "Dexter and Lionel are two different cases," she argued, her image fading even more from view.

"How so..." Kyle asked. He could sense she hadn't told him something about Lionel, but time wasn't on their side. They'd already spent an hour in this mental space and Katie's mind was shifting into a deeper form of sleep that couldn't let her keep this up.

Katie held her tongue as she vanished from view. Lionel had confessed his feelings to her during the Founder's Festival and that wasn't the same for Dexter... was it? 'Ugh, what is wrong with all of them? I was the most feared hunter in the whole of Brigadia.' she felt like screaming out. The scent of her mate calmed her mind and she was fast asleep in minutes.

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"Katie, you might want to wake up," Cole nudged the beauty that slept on his chest, "Wow, you slept really deep. Are you okay?"

"Yeah, I'm fine. I just... didn't detect any trouble during the..." her mind went blank when she looked out the window. Out over the horizon was the largest water body she'd ever seen in her life. It stretched as far as the eye could see. Seagulls cawed in the air. The sun was only rising and it made a beautiful reflection on the surface of the waterbody.

"I take it you've never seen the sea before," Cole took note. The girl nodded and continued to watch as the bus took a turn away from the waterbody. Katie's senses began to flare up. There was a lot in the woods that brought her senses to flare up like this. She put her hands to her head to soothe the continuous inflow of information. "Are you okay?"

"Yeah, I'm fine. Just way too many creatures in the woods," she responded. Cole couldn't help but stare at the girl in awe.

"You might have been stuck in a remote town your whole life, but you're closer to nature than any of us that have had the chance to be in nature," he mused. The voices in the girl's mind started to go down as she adjusted to the different creatures in the woods.

Sandra sat by Jason with her hands folded. "A game reserve... How barbaric? When do we get to the hotel?" she asked the man beside her.

"Well, we still have quite the drive left to get there, to be honest. The reserve is so large that we might as well have finished half the journey," he responded, holding in his laughter.

Sandra turned to him with a blank expression on her face. Her idea of a reserve could not have been more inaccurate. She looked out the window and managed to get different glimpses of the wildlife. Birds of different colours tended to their young, while others hunted for food. Some of the just lazied around their nests. The girl looked beyond the treetops and caught a glimpse of a bushy tail dashing into the woods as the bus passed by. The reserve... She pulled her phone from her pocket and pulled up a map... The reserve was easily fifty miles across...

"Who has the power to designate all this land untouchable?" the girl mused.

"Do you still think making a reserve would rob the creatures of their wild nature?" Jason asked her with a smirk on his face.

"You could have at least told me it was this big. I didn't think it was this big," she groaned.

"Well, now you know." Katie opened the window to let in the wind that whipped her hair backwards. Just as she'd expected, the air in the reserve provided a thrill of the wild that only called out to her. She wanted to run through the woods, a look Cole could read straight through.

"And here I thought I was a fan of the wild," Cole chuckled.

"Well, you could join me for a run when we're free," Katie replied with a wink.

"Aren't you the one who keeps saying Jeremiah is always tailing us?" Cole asked.

"Well, we've been on a bus for hours. He'd also need time to catch up to that. I don't know what means of transport he'll use, but he'll definitely be here by the end of the day," she chuckled.

"You say it like he's a friend that you're counting on..."

"Oh no, I still want to make him taste dirt. I just know he won't be making any dangerous moves," she replied.

"Well, that would have been the case when Frank was always around to protect you..." Cole replied... 'I guess that's accurate,' the girl thought to herself. She didn't have the protection of Cupid Shooter anymore. Although, for some reason, that didn't seem to faze her.

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The bus finally stopped its rhythmic vibrations and came to a stop in the parking lot of a large hotel. The chaos from the students started then. The teachers had their hands full with trying to govern the unruly rascals. Most of them wanted to go exploring already, something that was a breach of security procedures. Katie kept silent in her seat as the chaos ensued. It was fun to watch and she continuously giggled at Trevor, the busy body, "Hey Trevor, you missed one," she called out to him through the bus window.

“Aren’t you supposed to be helping him?” Cole asked her.

“Yes, I am supposed to be helping, but watching is much more fun and irresponsible of the hunter they brought. The boy needs a bit of training in crowd control, so I’m supervising,” the girl whipped up an excuse, refusing to make eye contact with her mate. Cole ran his hands through her hair, fixing the mess of strands the wind had made when she’d opened the window earlier. Katie went perfectly still as he did so... Looking back at Trevor, she found that he was going to mess up his job before long.

“Trevor, try standing at the entrance of the hotel and making roll call of everyone that goes through it,” Katie offered her opinion. The boy looked up at her and walked off to the hotel entrance. Katie shrugged, “That was simple enough.”

“Of course, it was,” Cole replied.

The bus finally started to get empty. The students finally got organised in the yard inside the hotel premises and the teachers went to address them. “Shall we join the others, Cole?” Katie asked.

“Aren’t you going to make a sweep of the area and make sure it’s safe?” Cole asked her.

“Well, there are four hunters on the four corners of the hotel, so...” the alpha raised a brow at the girl. “Why are you so insistent on me taking this job seriously?”

“Well, because I know how powerful you are. If you were to confirm the hotel to be safe, I would believe you in a heartbeat compared to a group of hunters I’d never met,” Cole replied, placing a kiss on her forehead.

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“You’re treating me to dinner,” she huffed before walking out.

“I was already planning on that,” the man laughed as he watched her disappear leaving a light tempest in her wake... “I also haven’t seen you run untethered in a while...”

Jason, on the other hand, was having more trouble waking up his partner. The girl was sleeping so much she wouldn’t wake one bit no matter what he tried. “Hey Cole, is she dead?” he called out, his voice raised in pitch.

“Huh, why would you think such a thing? She’s still warm, isn’t she?” Cole asked her.

“Well, yeah, she’s still warm, but she won’t get up... It’s like she’s in a coma,” Jason almost screamed at this.

Cole shook his head in disappointment. His friend was just far too immature for him, “Try carrying her then. She obviously doesn’t want to wake up now.” Just then, the fearful man got a look that could only resemble that of someone who’d been offered heaven.

“Carrying Sandra to her bed and tending to her every need until she falls madly in love with me for being such a gentleman and...” SMACK... “Ouch...” The boy turned back to see Lina standing with Caden snickering behind her.

“You better keep those thoughts to yourself. Besides, girls get their own rooms during trips like these, so she won’t be needing you to spend the whole night tending to her.

“I was only speaking of one possible future of this. The possibilities are endless. I could carry her to her room and she wakes up on the way only to pretend to be asleep while I whisper my undying...” SMACK...
“Ouch, you have got to stop doing that...”

“Caden, can you carry Sandra to her room, please? I’m afraid Jason has a few screws loose,” Lina asked, ignoring the alpha’s comment.

“Oh no, Caden. You know she’s uncharted territory for you. Lay one finger on her and it will be your head on a platter,” Jason cradled the sleeping girl even closer to himself.

“Just how obsessed are you with this girl?” Lina mused.

“Enough to believe she could be my mate someday,” he replied, rubbing cheeks with the sleeping girl.

“You’re too confident about her being unable to wake up, aren’t you?” Cole asked.

“Oh, I tried a lot of things to get her to wake up, but she’s totally fallen asleep. It’s like I’m the perfect pillow,” he joked, cradling the girl even more, “What are we waiting for? Lead me to her room so I might lay my beautiful princess to sleep.”

Lina chose this moment to give up on trying to curb this foolishness, “Right this way. You’ll be carrying her for a while considering we have to first wait for the teachers to have everything sorted and hand us our room keys.”

“I don’t mind having to carry her for a thousand years,” he replied cheerfully.

“You might soon realise why no one wants to get into Atlas’ shoes. The weight of the earth for a minute might be okay, but centuries upon centuries is a whole other matter altogether,” Caden warned the boy.

“And even then, I’d do it as long as it was for her...” he replied, barely fazed by his friend’s words.

“He’s gone off the deep end, Caden. Might as well let him be,” Cole tapped his friend on the shoulder.

“Yes, Alpha Cole,” and just like that, Caden stopped bothering Jason on matters concerning him carrying his potentially future bride.

This group was the last to go through the hotel gates, walking up to the boy holding a notepad ticking off names, “Ah, the runts of the group finally showed up. Names, please.”

“Alpha Cole, Alpha Caden, Alpha Lina, Alpha Jason and junior hunter Sandra,” Cole replied with a smirk on his face. Trevor was barely shaken by the man’s response. He merely ticked them off and began to wonder.

“Huh, Runt Cole, where is your better half?” he asked, “She seems to be the only one that has not yet come through this gate.”

“Well, she’s surveying the area, making sure she knows just how safe this place is,” Cole replied, walking away from Trevor. The hotel was made up of only four buildings, large flats built in a square. The compound inside had been partitioned with paths and gardens that were well tended to. One could say

it was the one part of the reserve that was tended to and yet still close to nature. The gardens had chairs and tables littered around for those that would like to relax in the cold wind at whatever time they saw fit.

“If everyone could just pair up and receive their keys. Register your room number and roommate on the same list Trevor has. Make sure you cooperate with the hunters. They work to make this place as safe as possible and we don’t want to make their work any harder than it has to be. Even if some of you are werewolves, I wouldn’t be too confident of your abilities against a lion or a bear in the woods. Do I make myself clear?” the teacher yelled out her orders to the students who responded in utter boredom.

Having mentioned hunters and safety, they were more willing to comply and did so as fast as their numbers could allow, “Katie is surely taking a while to come back, huh,” Caden made an observation, eyeing the gates. The girl was still not back yet. Cole wasn’t as worried as he was though... When he thought of contacting her, he only got the feeling of liberation. Katie was having fun... A smile graced his face.

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Katie took off in one direction intending to go around the whole of the hotel to make sure there were no entry points for intruders. As she ran, she noticed everything passed by her faster than it usually did. She’d gotten faster and it was easier to run too. She barely used any energy to reach the speed she used at this point. It gave her a feeling of freedom to run untethered by her previous physical restraints.

Memories of the last days of training flooded her mind. Frank Silver had told her something very interesting... “Producing a thunderclap isn’t as hard... Well, for you. It isn’t as hard as you might think. You only need to tap into your gift and use it to a level that brings you to a speed twice your normal. It won’t be as loud as the thunderclap you normally make since that is you at your maximum. I don’t even know how you can see when you overclock your abilities like that,” the man rambled on. He’d explained with a series of examples. Trying to make sure the girl didn’t overdo it unless he wanted to hear from the prince once more.

In those days, Katie would constantly check on Caden to know how he was doing. Thankfully, they came to an end and by the time she had her last day of training, she’d finally caught the meaning behind Frank’s terrible explanation. It made sense for someone who didn’t have the agility gift to have trouble explaining how it worked. Katie was pleased with the man’s efforts despite her reluctance to be trained in the first place.

The man had trained her to use her strength as well. She was meant to fire arrows that soared at a higher velocity than the ones she was used to. It had been exhausting to shoot them, but eventually, he’d clarified that learning to use the gifts to the best of their capabilities was essentially what made a Mighty Warrior. It was only after Katie realised how his bow worked that she realised just what he meant. The Mighty Warriors were the perfect embodiment of the gifts Prometheus entrusted the hunters with.

Katie ran past a couple of hunters standing guard at different parts of the hotel and waved to them before running ahead to look for more breaches in security. For all she’d realised, the hotel was built well with three exits and one fire escape(which was a little fewer than she would have recommended)

The different exits were either locked or guarded. Cameras had been placed at all the right angles to capture activity outside the hotel. There was nothing out of order for her to report back.

As the girl was making her last turn to the entrance of the hotel, the rushing sound of footsteps reached her ears. She turned her neck to see a woman rushing up to her. She looked to be in her late twenties and had short black hair that made her look more like a rebel along with her rebellious looking clothing. Katie came to a stop and turned to the woman. The woman stopped at well and took one look at her, freezing at the sight of the girl before her, "Your eyes..."

180 Chapter One Hundred Eighty

"Umm, yeah, I'm a werewolf," Katie began, getting nervous in front of this girl. 'Pull yourself together, girl,' Ashley pitched in.

'Easy for you to say. You've never had to explain that you're a werewolf and a hunter at the same time. For some people that's considered serious hypocrisy,' she responded.

'Is it really?'

'No, not really. As long as hunters and werewolves remain on the same side in this war, it will never be a problem,' Katie replied.

"I don't think I've ever seen a werewolf run that fast in their human forms. Are you special in some way? I heard Katie Sirius was back in..." the woman stopped talking, "Where are my manners? My name is Angella Sullivan, what's yours?"

'Well played, Angella.' "My name, as you already guessed, is Katie Sirius," Katie responded.

"Now you must run with me. I haven't heard anything interesting happen in this reserve in a while. Is that okay with you?" the woman asked.

"Yeah, it's fine. It won't hurt to get back thirty minutes late," Katie replied, unconsciously placing a time limit on their escape from their duties. The two females ran into the woods, tapping into their Prometheus gifts and allowing the rush of running through the wild to take over them. For Katie, this was one of the few ways she could feel free from the different responsibilities she had in her life. Running as fast as she could, or simply running beyond human capabilities and watching her surroundings zip past her in a blur.

"I have tried to run faster than a werewolf would and you can still keep up. I have my suspicions that you're using a Prometheus gift, but that would be crazy. Would you happen to be similar in talent to your younger sister?" Angella asked.

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"Well, no, I'm not nearly as talented as my sister. The answer is simple. I am a hunter as well as a werewolf," Katie replied.

The woman was quiet for a while. It was a blunt explanation and one that didn't make sense to her. Katie could read from her expression that she was still deciding on how to take the information that she'd just received. As Katie had now come to know that it wasn't always good news to tell someone

that she was of the two groups. It didn't bode well with some people. "Why would our patron god decide to make such a decision?"

"I'm not sure. I trained really hard to get where I am. And besides, I didn't know I was a werewolf back then," Katie replied. As a source of distraction, she allowed her senses to kick in once more. The voice of the wild was even louder in the woods. There seemed to be a creature all around them. The only reason she still felt safe was the speed at which they were running. She still wasn't able to pick out what creature was which, but she could know that some were in the trees while others were deep in the ground.

Katie could feel their intentions to be primal and drawn to instinct. As they rushed past them, they would recoil in fear of what had just rushed past them, gauging the enemy to be much more enabled than they were. This gave Katie a bit of confidence as they dashed through the forest. "What do you mean you had no idea you were a werewolf when you were training?"

"It's a long story. To cut it short, you might want to check the files of hunters. You'll find a 'Katie Chase' within them. Back then, I had no idea I was even royalty. I was just the adoptive daughter of two Chase hunters that had raised me as their own," Katie explained.

The woman's expression finally softened, "Oh, so you really are the daughter of the king and queen that was believed to have been killed eighteen years ago?"

"Yeah, that's me. It was a secret that was kept from me as well. And as I grew up, I was taught to fight. With my wolf suppressed, I needed to learn to defend myself. I never thought I would receive my Prometheus gifts at such an early age. I was a professional hunter long before my eighteenth birthday," Katie replied with a laugh.

"That's insane. Normal people get those gifts in their twenties or even their thirties. Looks like you've come to turn the White Star Hotel upside down," the woman yelled excitedly, suddenly speeding up.

Katie's ears perked up at the name the woman had just said. She knew the reserve had been named after the royal family as most of everything general had been in the capital, but this she hadn't thought about. "Is that the name of the hotel?" she asked her, catching up to the woman almost effortlessly.

"Oh, were you under the impression it would have some lame name like the Sirius Game Reserve Hotel?" she joked.

"Of course, I thought that. That seems to be what happens to everything in the Sirius empire. The Great Sirius River along with everything else in the capital gets named after the royal family," Katie groaned.

"Well, it is said that the kings of Sirius had a habit of being flashy. In fact, that came to be their only flaw in the long run. While Lycaon was a more aggressive royal, Sirius cared more for the way he looked. He wasn't into wiping out the human race aggressively like his counterpart was those many centuries ago.

When peace finally came about years later, it wasn't a surprise when he ordered everything built in the capital to be named after him, well, everything that he deemed worthy of carrying his name was immediately adopted. The White Star hotel was an exception considering there is already a hotel in the capital named after the guy. Honestly, how can one person want his name spread that much?" the woman wondered.

Katie was hearing a lot of this for the first time. She had noticed the way Sirius wolves were taken to be more docile than Lycaon wolves, but she'd never looked for a reason behind it. After all, that wasn't exactly a history about her 'ancestors', until they were...

"I wonder if Drake will become as flashy as Dad when he takes over the throne of the Sirius kingdom," Katie replied.

"Huh, what are you talking about? Aren't you one of the moon goddesses' chosen?" the woman asked her.

"Yeah, what's that supposed to do with anything?" Katie asked.

The woman froze for a bit, thinking through her words, "I thought I read everything about the two of you right. You are from the two different families and the union between the two of you should bring the two families together, shouldn't it?"

"Well, yeah, I will become the Luna of the Lycaon pack, and the two families will be united through my union to Cole, but that won't have to mean the royal families get dissolved into one or something of the sort," Katie replied.

"Huh, I guess I had it all wrong then. If Prince Drake doesn't end up turning into another snowman, the world will freeze over," Angella joked, turning back towards the hotel along with Katie in a smooth arc. "Race you to the hotel..."

"Oh, you're on..." Katie replied adrenaline filtering into her system and pushing her to run faster. Katie let of all her shackles and let herself run free. Unbeknownst to her, Angella fell back behind her, seeing as the girl before she was letting off sounds similar to low-sounding thunderclaps. She was running faster than she'd ever thought she could and made it look so easy and effortless as she did it.

The woman pushed herself to run faster, a smile gracing her face, 'You have so much potential in you. Your face speaks of happiness and yet your strength only speaks of the pain you've been through. You must be the strongest person I've ever met.'

It was this same feeling of liberation Katie felt her mate tapping into while she ran straight for the hotel. She was much more aware of his presence in her life and couldn't think of life without him anymore. Life as a werewolf was starting to get better for her. The closeness between the werewolves was a blessing to have. It allowed them to know when one of their own was not alright and it didn't matter whether it was emotionally or physically.

This connection was even deeper with mates... Her mind flew back to the days she'd tended to him when he was bedridden. 'I wonder if I did a good job compared to when he took care of me...'

'Yes, Katie, you definitely did,' Ashley replied.

The girl finally reached the hotel gates and came to a stop before she came into view of the students. She was panting lightly and her body still pulsed with adrenaline from her run. She could keep this up much longer, but she knew she had other things to take care of. Angella came out from the forest a few minutes later. She was panting a little more than Katie was (more like a lot more) "You're way too fast. You teenagers... Strong bones..."

“Hey, you’re not that old to make such an excuse,” Katie raised her voice in response.

“Oh, what do you know? My back is killing me. Help me up, young lady...” Angella feigned weakness and collapsed, bringing Katie down with her in a bear hug. Katie merely laughed at her antics.

“You’re hopeless, Angella,” she joked.

“Well, at least there aren’t any rogues that run at that speed in this world,” the woman replied. Katie couldn’t help but remember a report from a subordinate she’d only recently learnt to control. He’d explained that the Rogue King was not slow either. Now that she thought of it, the beta alphas in Brigadia had made it to the clearing before she had... The thoughts brought shivers down her spine...

“Well, the low-ranking ones at least...”

Angella lifted her head to watch the girl’s expression, “You’ve met him, haven’t you? The Rogue King.”

“Yes... I have...”