

Chosen 241

241 Chapter Two Hundred Forty One

Seated at the entrance to the somewhat large facility at the top of a hill, the beta alpha that posed a threat to the wolves in the reserve yawned heavily. Boredom seemed to be tearing away at him, "This sucks. That idiot Thane gets to go along with the master and face far more powerful foes while I stay behind and play the role of babysitter to some kids on a trip. And what's with that over-confident rogue killer. She's supposed to be here already," the man complained.

"I had no idea you were that eager to meet her," a feminine voice tore through the air. The man looked from his spot on the floor with a bored expression and locked eyes with Alice.

"You're not her. I have no interest in fighting you of all people. I want to fight the person famous for the title of Rogue Killer. She must be powerful if she can get a title as scary as that one. Honestly, it gives me shivers just hearing that name. I want to meet her so much. Don't get me wrong. I'm not a fan or something. I just want to see the look on her face when I beat her to a pulp and reverse the image she's built this entire time," the man began rambling, standing up from his position on the ground.

"Ugh, your delusions are disgusting to listen to," Alice responded, crunching her nose.

"Oh yeah, that's true," the man responded, stretching his hands. He sniffed the air for a moment with his eyes closed, "I see there are quite a number of you. Placing a game of hide-and-seek. I would be led to assume you already know that you can't win against me. Would you all come out and fight me at once? After all, that is what is going to happen eventually."

"No, it's not what will happen..."

"Then you'll die before you have a chance even to get one hit in," the man cut her off in a deadly serious tone for once since he'd begun running his mouth. Seeing that his point had hit home, he continued, "The lot of you are going to die here. However, I don't want it to be boring, so come out and put up a good fight."

"You know how to run your mouth. That's for sure," another voice came from the woods as Caden revealed his presence to the man. Cole came through after him, "But I don't think you'll be able to hold your own against all of us."

Gallant came out from the woods as well, the four of them surrounding the rogue at once, "If the five of you had a plan of some sorts, it's terribly awful. That's what I'd expect from a group that has realized they don't stand a chance against me. Let's get this over with. I am late for some celebratory news. My victory against the Moon goddess' chosen and the rogue king's victory against the hunters in Lycaon."

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"Rogues can be quite delusional," Cole said through the mind link as he dashed forward. Caden mirrored his movements, the two of them having trained together, fell into sync almost immediately. They were both attacking in alternating turns before long... Gallant, astonished by the refined fighting techniques of the two werewolves took a little longer to join them against the rogue, taking a position behind the man to keep him from being pushed backwards.

Even against three enemies, the rogue seemed to be holding his own, dodging their attacks easily and weaving through them as though they left wide holes in their defence. For the last person hiding in the woods, she thought her senses were deceived when she detected how fast the man moved. She opened her eyes to see for herself and was distracted long enough to see the man dodge their attacks with unbelievable speed. He was yet to counter them... As she watched at the moment, they were moving far too slow for him and he let them humour themselves with their futile attempts at attacking him. The girl broke drew her bowstring back and tried to feel for a hole in his defences, but only got blocked by them when she realized the man was barely straining.

Even with everything he was doing, the man was bound to catch an arrow from her bow, regardless of how fast it was moving. The information was scary and her arm screamed from the strain of the bowstring. "Stick to the plan, Katie," Cole's voice came into her mind, sensing her intentions to join them.

"You're all more pathetic than I could have anticipated," the man said, picking them off one by one, beginning with Gallant who went sailing through the air after only one fist to the gut. The man had made it look far too easy...

The second to be flung was Caden. The beta alpha had guarded a hit to his face only to receive a powerful kick to his side. Cole tore his attention away from his momentarily fallen comrades and switched to a one-on-one fighting style to better cover his defence, "Oh, you seem more formidable compared to the rest, however, you're still far too young and inexperien..." the man's words stopped when Cole completely ignored his strike to the gut and struck his chin with an uppercut that sent him flying...

As the man flew into the air from the force of Cole's attack, Katie felt an opening and felt her body move almost faster than her decision to fire. Two arrows immediately soared through the air and into the man's shoulders. 'Don't kill him...' Jeremiah had warned them.

The force of the arrows threw him further back and into the concrete wall that surrounded the cell tower. The man grunted in pain reaching for the arrow in his shoulder. Three more whistling sounds filled the air representing the three arrows that now went through the palm that was trying to reach for an arrow and his two thighs. A look of anger spread across the man's face as he pulled his shoulder from the wall... Another arrow rang through the air. To Cole's surprise, the man caught it with his uninjured arms.

"Oh well, I'm out of arrows now," Katie said, rushing from the forest and straight for rogue... Right before she could reach him, he broke free of the arrows that pinned him to the wall, letting out an angry roar as he snapped the metal arrowheads," and fell to the ground.

Katie stopped just in time to miss the arrow he tried to stab downwards with, his calculation deadly accurate. Her senses closed off the chance they had to put him down easily. "That was a good try," the man cursed as he pulled the arrows out of his body. The wounds closed up almost as soon as the arrows were taken out.

"Yeah, it was definitely a try of some sort," Katie replied, feeling as though their troubles were only beginning.

“How is he moving after taking that much damage?” Caden groaned as he stood up.

“Well, he’s a beta alpha. His healing speed is much faster than that of an ordinary werewolf. He probably doesn’t feel as drained as we’d like,” Katie replied.

“Hey, I’m a beta alpha too, you know,” Caden complained, “I don’t think I have as much stamina as this one is demonstrating.”

“You need more confidence, Caden,” Katie said to him. ‘Ashley, would you like to help me out here?’ Her wolf pushed forward, uniting once more with her human side. Katie’s ears grew longer and white fur came up from her head, trailing down into a tip as it got closer to the tip of her nose. The fur in her head changed the colour of her black hair and gave it a snow white at the top, leaving the rest that fell down to her back as black as night.

“As I live and breathe... It’s a half shift. Do you have a tail when you do that?” the rogue asked, stretching a bit.

“WHAT???” Of course, I don’t...” the girl responded with a yell.

“OH, then I guess it’s not complete just yet which makes you less of a threat than I’d initially thought,” the man responded.

“You’ll be singing a different tune when we’re done with you,” Katie responded with a smirk on her face. The man was about to say something smart in return when the girl was right in front of him.

‘I forget she can do that...’ he thought to himself as he sidestepped her. To his surprise, the girl pivoted on her foot, immediately adjusting to his evasion so that she was in his blindspot, ‘She’s well-trained...’

The rogue turned in a smooth arc to match her speed only to find himself in the way of another fist that was headed toward his face. The man quickly got down to avoid her attack, she was totally open... or so he thought, the girl recovered before he could think to attack her. The two of them were involved in this dance for a while, none of them managing to land a hit on the other. To the others that were watching, these two were involved in a blurry exchange that barely made the foggiest sense.

It was a stalemate that Cole couldn’t find a way to break. Just as he was about to resign from the battle, he felt his mate’s consciousness invade his, “Cole, I need your help. I can’t beat him on my own.”

“I can barely follow your movements...”

“That doesn’t really matter. You managed to put a Mighty warrior in the hospital. There is a lot you can do to help in a situation like this. You’re the one who talked of being open-minded. Earlier you managed to make an opening by utilizing that indestructibility of yours... I have an idea...”

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Fighting the alpha at the speed the Rogue Killer was forced to push herself had a nostalgic effect on the hunter. She found that her mind so often reached into her past. She’d been trained by two Chase hunters. One of them, Marie Chase, had been responsible for teaching her everything she knew about martial arts. The lessons with her mother were the most relaxing for her. When all was said and done, in a fight that was this fast, the girl was pushed to follow her instincts and depend purely on muscle memory.

Thoughts about what she was meant to do to break the enemy's defences only helped to slow her down. 'To think a rogue could achieve this level of mastery over the balance between agility and strength,' the girl thought to herself as she vaulted over the beta alpha. It was tempting for her to close her eyes, however, she needed to take in the information so she could react accordingly. After all, she'd been taught to keep an eye when her senses failed her.

The beta alpha placed his foot forward and pivoted, using the stray force that would have left him exposed to attack the girl instead with a lateral strike aimed at her neck. With his claws extended, this attack would bring her down for sure. Katie was below the level his hand came only a second too soon and launched into a counter. The man's second hand was in place to protect him just in time.

The two were locked in a fluid motion, each of them looking for an opening. No matter how faster the other tried to go, the other only increased their speed to match them. It seemed as though the fight was now boiling down to which of them was going to hold out more in terms of endurance. Neither of them had the stamina to keep it up forever, but then again, no one could tell just how long they were going to go at it.

'Katie, we can't defeat him on our own. We'll run out of strength before too long,' Ashley's voice rang out in the girl's mind as they continued their flurry of blocks and counterattacks.

'I'm all ears, Ashley,' the girl replied.

'We haven't revealed to him that we have a Strength Prometheus gift yet. The moment we do, we shall lose the element of surprise. We need help from him...' the girl said to her. Katie didn't have to ask who she meant, for the white wolf went slightly out of sync thinking of their mate.

'Focus, Ashley,' Katie yelled mentally as she hit guided a dangerous kick from its intended target, 'This man's hits pack a lot of energy. We can't bear to slip.'

'Oh, you worry so much, Katie. This man is not even a royal. What do we have to fear from him,' the wolf replied.

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'It's good to hear that you still have your pride as a royal intact,' Katie replied, 'Let's try to sync with Cole. He might be able to help us with this.'

'You mean the same thing we did with that girl earlier,' the wolf asked, 'Do you think it will work again?'

'It will if we close our eyes. It's only then that we can share our senses. To think we found that out just earlier tonight,' the girl scoffed internally. Just as she was crouching low to dodge one of the man's deadly kicks to the side, she felt her thigh muscles start to scream out in pain, 'And we have to hurry. We don't have much time left.'

The two of them had completely ignored their surroundings to keep their minds in the fight. Their lives depended on it. From what the girl had witnessed before joining in. The beta alpha was indeed powerful enough to take them all down. It all depended on staying at her best until the opportunity to bring him down presented itself. Clearing her mind, she allowed her senses to feed the information about her opponent into her mind. It was only when she felt as though her eyes were providing her with second-hand information that she closed them and started fighting on pure instinct.

It was also then that she began to feel the presence of those that around her. Her mate stood not far from them with his fists clenched. The mate bond fed her with the emotions of someone who wanted to help so dearly. A smile graced the girl's face as she pivoted around the beta alpha, diverting one of his fists and completely switching positions with him. It was like a dance the two were involved in at some point. However, gripping was only bound to get you killed.

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Cole wondered what his mate meant when she contacted him during her fight. Although his feelings were immediately snuffed out when he began to feel his mate's impulses down to the last letter. He could tell how many decisions she was forced to make in every second that the two of them fought. He could tell that she was only trying to keep herself from meeting one of his more than mortifying blows.

Cole might not have been as fast as the creatures before him, but he did feel as though there was something he could do. His wolf surged forward in an attempt to aid him instead of distracting him, "Don't fight your wolf, Cole. Let him forward."

"How is that even supposed to work? My wolf coming forward only means me going to the back," he replied.

"No, it doesn't always mean that," Katie replied.

"Are you going to teach me something about werewolves in the middle of a fight," the royal asked his mate astounded that she could even talk to him while fighting for her life.

"Well, to be honest, I can only talk to you because we are fighting as one right now. So it's like I'm thinking to myself," the girl replied. Cole remained silent for a moment before realizing what she meant. His impulses kicked in and he began to circle the two brawling werewolves. Katie moved more than the beta alpha, using what Cole was now sure to be her Agility gift to keep on her toes and out of reach of the man's deadly attacks.

Almost like a bell, he launched into motion aiming for the beta alpha who was entranced by his mate. The rogue barely noticed when a fist connected with his side, the force of the impact sending him tumbling. Katie vanished and picked the man by his heel before he had the chance to react. The girl was spinning on her heel, holding the bulky man by his foot as though he weighed nothing. Cole picked up on her next intention and aimed at the man's swinging body with a round kick that connected with the man's face, knocking him fast unconscious with a sickening crunch.

Katie dropped the man immediately and fell to her knees, panting heavily. The quick and nimble female hunter that had accompanied them rushed to the man and stabbed his thighs and shoulders with blades that reeked of the poison all werewolves dreaded. The reaction of the wolfsbane immediately stained all the veins at the wounds and turned them a sickening dark purple as had been the final step of their plan.

Alice got up, breathing a sigh of relief and turned to the cell tower, "I can't believe what I've just witnessed. That man was extremely powerful and you took him down. I guess you can back up your confidence when you put your mind to it," she said to the tired hunter.

"I don't think I got him because I am well-trained in..." the girl's panting voice was stopped by the sound of a generator kicking back to life.

"You're right, my daughter. The rogue was not fighting at his best. And here I was thinking you had gone soft after all this time," a voice interrupted them. Katie's eyes went wide with recognition. She'd known the voice all her life and didn't think she'd be hearing from the same person so soon. The crew looked up and noticed a female hunter standing atop the concrete wall. Her hair was tied back in a ponytail and she donned on a coat and full leather wear commonly used by hunters that bore the agility gift.

"Marie... Is that you?" Alice's voice took the words from Katie's mouth. She looked between the two of them and saw more than a look of recognition.

"It's been long, Alice," Aunt Marie responded, leaping from the top of the wall and landing right before the woman. The two of them engulfed each other in a warm hug, tears flowing from both their eyes.

"Far too long, Marie. You don't even look a day older than the last time I last saw you," Alice responded.

"And you've grown into quite the fine young woman," Aunt Marie responded.

"Not nearly as strong as the young hunter I witnessed today," the woman replied, beckoning to the tired royal on the ground. Cole had taken his place beside her and began to search her for any injuries. Just as he'd thought, the girl was covered in numerous bruises that stung to touch.

"Well, she's one of a kind. You might want to compare yourself with normal hunters," Marie chuckled.

Right when Katie was about to ask them what was going on, her senses flared up, warning her of incoming enemies. Footsteps came rushing through the woods. Katie got ready only to see Jeremiah bursting through the woods with sweat staining his face. He was breathing very badly and looked like he might die from pure exhaustion. What kept Katie from worrying about the spy was how spotless he was. There was barely a scratch on him, "Katie, he called the rest of them," he said after collapsing before him.

"That was what I was about to tell them. Long time no see, Jeremiah," Aunt Marie spoke up, chuckling at the boy's state, "You're looking quite fine yourself."

"Thank you, Mrs Chase. I would like to ask when it was that you got here, but there are rogues coming this way. Although they are not as many as the dead ones in the forest," the man responded, panting even louder and more dramatically, "Those of us graced with strength were never meant to run this much."

"You're so relaxed for someone who just came to warn us about an enemy. Speaking of which, where did those rogues come from?" Katie asked, chuckling at the man who'd collapsed before her. The stinging from her bruises began to heal unnaturally fast that she was forced to look at the man rubbing circles into her forearm. Black veins were spreading across his palm on every spot that made contact with her skin.

"No, you don't get to use that power," she snapped, slapping away his hand or more like trying to slap away his hand.

"You don't seem that worried?" he asked.

“Well, that’s because we handled pretty much everything this busy body was going to put herself through tonight. The sun will rise soon... I only hope it rises with all this behind us,” Marie spoke.

A groaning sound beside them caught their attention. The hunters and werewolves looked toward their enemy on the ground. The man was already stirring and his nose had already healed, “That’s some major resilience. I’m glad the wolfsbane seems to be doing its job.”

The man looked about him and resigned to his position on the ground. With his hands and legs paralyzed, there was nothing he could do, “Why did you call for reinforcements?” Katie asked.

“It’s pointless for us to keep fighting now...” the beta alpha let his head roll over to the side, his eyes landing on the one thing the rogues had dreaded since the beginning of their battle against the rest of the world. The mark on Katie’s neck and everything it stood for... With that said, the man’s eyes seemed to go very still almost as though they didn’t bear the energy to make sense of the light that went into them. Marie walked up to him and put her index and middle finger to the man’s neck...

“He’s just out cold although... I’m not sure I’ve felt a pulse this slow before. It’s almost like the soul has lost all drive to keep living...”

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Evelyn was standing by the balcony when she heard the distinct sound of unfurling parachutes in the air. The hunters were landing in their chosen positions. However, what she got her attention was the one that seemed to be aiming for the same balcony she was standing on. The woman stepped away from it and allowed the woman parachuting to land there, “Would you care to explain why you chose a place as guarded as this one?”

The woman who had landed barely allowed herself the time to get the parachute off herself. In quick haste, she responded, “It’s not as guarded as you might think. The bridge has been breached and the archers that were sent to help have been taken out. It happened so fast that I had the chance to change my destination. I had to bring warning to the palace,” the woman responded, “They are coming and they are powerful.”

“Who was at the bridge?” Evelyn asked.

“Anthony was at the bridge. I couldn’t believe what I saw and I couldn’t follow it quite like I normally do,” the woman replied.

Evelyn closed her eyes and took in their surroundings through her other senses. The woman spoke the truth about the coming enemy. They walked at a pace of their own and made progress towards the castle, snuffing out whoever came before them as though there wasn’t a hunter that could stop them. Upon sensing their presence, the hunter could tell these weren’t normal rogues even though they seemed to be the only rogues that were making progress. The others as powerful as these two weren’t moving any closer to the palace which gave the woman some sort of comfort.

“In that case, we’ll have to play it smarter. Bring me a good bow and four quivers,” the woman ordered before walking off with a new destination in mind. Evelyn exited the palace and took to the streets of the capital in search of a high tower and to keep her senses on the incoming alphas. When she found

the tower she was looking for, she climbed up to the top as quickly as she could mimicking the agility of a cat as she scaled the building.

Catching her breath at the top of the flat-topped tower, Evelyn picked her transmitter and tuned it to a different frequency, "Micah, you're going to..." the woman was stopped when her brother spoke from the other side almost immediately, barely giving her time to explain anything.

"Yeah, I heard you went out on your own to fight those monsters. What are you thinking Evelyn? You might be strong, but you're not on the same level as Thorrin or Jim. They had trouble with those monsters years ago. Have you already forgotten?" the man argued with her.

"I know what I'm getting myself into, Micah. You don't have to lecture me about it. But they've already cut through our defences on this side of the capital. We're cornered and they'll make it to the king in no time if nothing is done about this," she replied, filling her voice with all the determination she could muster even though her nerves only got worse the more she felt the enemy draw near. "Protect the king, Micah. You're the last line of defence against the rogues."

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"What does it matter? I can tell Thorrin already got to the king. My senses don't fool me one bit. No good news has come back from him yet. If he can't bring that guy down, then this is all for nothing," Micah said to her.

"Get a grip, Micah. Haven't you noticed?"

"Noticed what?" the man's voice came surprised.

"This is the biggest gathering of hunters in history. The outcome of this fight cannot be defeat. Otherwise, the whole world is forfeit. Protect the king and under no circumstances are you to let them into his chambers," Evelyn ordered, determination pouring into her as she did. She switched off the transmitter and turned her eyes on the attackers going through. The first rogues to come through were average wolves that she downed without a second thought.

She had an arrow ready almost immediately after letting one fly. Her speed made it seem like she was barely moving her hand from the bow. The smell of burning rubber hit her nose as the friction wore away at her gloves. She was done with most of the rogues without breaking a sweat. Her senses told her she had snuffed out most of them, but something was completely wrong. Her eyes darted about the scene in search of the source of the odd feeling in her stomach.

From the same streets that had only previously poured out numerous rogues, a man walked into view with a smirk on his face. He turned his face to her and smirked, his eyes reflecting the malice in his heart that chilled her to the bone. "Why does he always have to steal the spotlight from me?" a childish voice came from behind her. The woman's body went stiff with fear... there was nothing childish about the voice behind her for the being that bore it only held the worst of intentions towards her and she could sense all his bloodlust.

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Not far from the main battlefield, another pair of hunters landed. These two hadn't seen each other in a while and were now getting the chance to fight together once again. They were both sure there was

nothing they couldn't handle for as long as they fought together. After all, they had come to be known as the dynamic duo of hunters.

"Ouch, that was one rough landing," the man groaned as he got up from the ground. He had brought along with him a backpack that had weighed him down, bringing him to the ground much faster than the chute was supposed to bring him.

"Well, it was you that decided to bring that thing along with you. Now I suggest you get ready before it's too late. I don't want to have to be the one to bring you to your senses, Frost," the woman said to him.

"Oh, you know I'm always ready for something like this," Frost smirked, opening his backpack and retrieving the object of his steep descent. From the backpack, he retrieved a weapon made completely of metal. A long chain trailed out and soon enough, from the bag emerged two large spiked balls attached to the chain from both sides. On all spikes was a protective rubber cone to keep it from cutting through the bag while he carried it which he began to take off as fast as he could.

"It's been a while, hasn't it, Jackeline?" the man asked the woman.

"Yes, it has... and it has been even longer since the last time you chose to use that as your weapon in battle," the woman replied with a smirk. The woman was about to say more to him when a growl came from within the forest on their side of the capital, "Just when you think you finally got some time alone..." she sighed, retrieving her bow and aiming at the rogues that soon enough began to rush out of the woods.

The woman shot as fast as she could, taking out a total of seven before she dropped the bow and reached for the swords at her sides, "Feels just like old times, Frost," the woman smirked. Frost was by her side in no time, the two of them getting into sync just in time. The two hunters fought in coordination with each other. The woman did the precise slashing that finished their opponents while the man bashed them with his deadly weapon. The two of them were almost always back to back and they spun into the centre of the fighting without a problem.

Two beings walked out from the cover of the trees and watched the two of them fighting. Even when the rogues threatened to overwhelm them with numbers, the spiked balls were working their fastest to keep a sphere of protection around the two warriors, "One would expect those two to fall easily with all these overwhelming numbers we have," the male spoke up.

The female, Amanda, took a short pause as she recognized the fighting female, 'That idiot was supposed to stay away from the fighting...'

"General, is there something on your mind?" the male asked her when he noticed her spacing out.

"Huh... um, no. It's nothing, Balar. Those two might prove to be a problem to the armies we brought to infiltrate the enemy from this side of the capital, don't you think?" she asked him.

"Oh, no, they won't pose a problem. The only ones that were bound to cause us any trouble decided to go after the king himself. To be perfectly honest, I think they would have had a better chance of bringing us down if they had focused on bringing down the generals first with their strongest. But in the end, there wouldn't have been much of a difference. Our king is on a different level. They can't bring him down even if they tried..."

“Yeah...” the woman paused, “I guess you’re right.” The rogues before them stopped attacking and started to back up.

“What’s the matter? Are you all starting to get scared?” Jackeline yelled at them. That was before she spotted the generals by the treeline. Her eyes flashed with recognition of one of them. It was Amanda, however, the expression on her face suggested she was hostile at the moment. Aside from the fact that she had seen her not so long ago and had seen a completely different side of her, this had just switched from a matter of kill or be killed to utter maybe-kill-or-maybe-be-killed drama, “You’ve got to be kidding me right now.”

“What is it, Jackeline?” Frost asked her from her back, keeping his eyes on the rogues on his side.

“Well, I don’t know if it’s in my place to say,” the woman replied.

“What’s that supposed to...” the man was stopped by the voice of Balar.

“Hey, Amanda. That woman is acting like she’s seen you before. Have you fought a weakling like her before?” the man asked.

“Something like that... I was sure she’d kicked the bucket back then. I guess some hunters never stay dead,” the woman replied, hoping the hunter would get the message to keep her cover.

Jackeline looked about her and saw the looks she was getting from all the rogues. They all just wanted to see her dead. The more she thought of it, the stupider it sounded, “Good thing the rogue king didn’t tell us to kill the strong ones. They will be a nice force to add to his army.” Amanda added.

This only offended Jackeline more... “What the hell, Amanda? Is that supposed to make me feel any better?”

“For the goddess’ sake, this is too much of a hassle,” Amanda sighed pinching the bridge of her nose.

“What feels like a...” Balar was stopped when a hand went straight through his throat without much warning...

“Just keep quiet and slowly descend to the depths of hell, Balar,” she cut him off. The rogues shifted their attention to the general, fear spreading through them. Balar choked on the blood that spilt into his windpipe. Unable to speak and losing much blood, he could only succumb to the darkness of death that took him moments later.

“Jackeline... What’s going on?” Frost asked.

“I’ll explain it all later. Right now, I ask that you help me wipe out every single rogue in this group,” the woman said to him leaping back to her bow. She started firing as fast as she could, aiming at the ones furthest from her. Frost, having fought beside the woman for a long time, immediately read her actions and began to wipe them out as fast as he could, his spiked balls flying through them faster than any of them could react. On the other side of the rogues was a general who seemed to have turned against them.

The first ones to try and flee had felt she was still on their side only to get taken out in a few swift attacks. The three beings began to take them out, blocking all their exits and making quick work of

them. Those that almost escaped were shot with poisoned arrows to vital spots that they didn't make it that far.

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Frost let his spiked balls fall to the ground, his muscles screaming in pain after the exertion he'd put himself through. He was panting badly and could barely keep himself standing. Blood stained his clothes as his method of fighting had proved to be messy when taking out the enemy. The upside to using his deadly spheres was that even when they didn't offer a killing blow, they rendered the enemy unable to keep fighting after the first attack.

"This just got a lot more complicated," Amanda's voice reached their ears, "What are you doing here? You were supposed to flee after I gave you the king's plans."

"What are you doing here? You looked like you were ready to kill us," Jackeline yelled back at the alpha.

Amanda held her tongue before replying, failing to meet her eyes, "You wouldn't have been the first hunters I would have killed."

Frost went on full guard at the suggestion, "Jackeline, get away from her. She's dangerous."

Jackeline backed away from the woman as the man suggested, although she didn't feel like fighting her, "Frost, she's the one I told you about. The person who told me everything about the rogue king's plans."

"What..." he exclaimed, fear flashing in his eyes, "No, that's not how verified information is collected, Jackeline."

"I didn't lie about any of it. However, at the time, I didn't know about the king's plans to invade the capital. In other words, I didn't know his battle plan," Amanda pleaded.

"Rogues don't have a battle plan. They just attack until there is nothing left in their path," Frost argued.

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"Oh, you misunderstand. Rogues do have plans. Well, those of us that climbed the ranks and know what to do with the others. Most of the time, the rogues that end up dying in an attack were only decoys, like the pawns you see at your feet. These are all decoys that the king can just throw around. Their overwhelming numbers are what makes them invaluable to him when he's carrying out a plan like this."

"How many of them are they?" Frost asked.

"That's not quite the problem right now. It's what he has planned now. To turn all the hunters that are opposing him into rogues. The army that he can raise from that kind of army will simply be catastrophic, not to mention what he stands to gain from killing the king of Lycaon," Amanda spoke up.

"What about you? Which side are you on? You were clearly going to kill us just now," Frost said to her, with a hint of resentment.

"I wasn't going to kill you. I was going to knock you out and leave my bite in you. That was the king's orders after all," she corrected, "However, I would have never thought the first hunter I would run into

would be the only one that knows my secrets. I only had two choices really. Either I killed you before you said a word, or killed Balar and claim he was killed when he got careless with the enemy. I chose to..."

"What are we doing talking to a rogue like they can be reasoned with? Honestly, Jackeline, what's been going on?" Frost cut Amanda short when he got bored listening to her.

"Why don't you hear her out? She's not a rogue by choice," Jackeline argued.

"That's literally the same case for all of them. There is no rogue that chooses to become a rogue. They just get bitten and inherit the will of the alpha that bit them. Then go on rampages killing everything in their path," Frost laid it out as simply as he could.

"Some are born into it, Frost. Don't tell me you've already forgotten about Ashley. Didn't her existence teach you anything about what a rogue's life is like? If they happen to resent that life, there is nothing that keeps them from finding a way out if they are strong enough," Jackeline argued.

"Don't pull that card on me, Jackeline. You've not always been this soft on rogues before. You can't start now when you were the one who witnessed what they did to Katie with your own eyes," he countered.

"You're not even listening to me, are you? It's like we are going in a loop. You just saw her killing rogues and you have the audacity to doubt her," Jackeline argued.

To this, Frost had no argument. He looked between the woman staring dangerously at him and the rogue she was defending. Amanda wasn't in the least bit bothered by their argument. In fact, she was poking one of the dead wolves before them, "Are you guys done already? You must like each other very much."

"Huh, w-what gives you... that i-idea?" Jackeline's composure crumbled immediately. The woman shifted her attention to the red-eyed rogue.

"I've never seen something so obvious in my life. Anyway, it's not my place to judge whatever way you choose to communicate your emotions to each other. As I was saying earlier, the rogues have planned to turn each and every one of the hunters here into rogues. I didn't know the hunters were this weak, but then again, Samson did tell me about his encounter with one of the Mighty Warriors. They really are as weak as they claim to be," the woman said, ending her poking charade and getting up to meet their eyes.

"What are you going to do now? We won't exactly let you through to attack the capital," Frost asked her.

"You trust far too..."

"I trust Jackeline. Not you. Let's make that perfectly clear. You've offered me no reason to trust you," Frost cut her off harshly.

The rogue general looked about the battlefield as though pointing out all the proof they needed. When her gesture didn't make sense to the man, she sighed, "Whatever helps you sleep at night. If I can't go back to my king and if I can't proceed to the palace, there is only one option left for me to do."

"and what might that be?" Jackeline asked her.

"I'll help you put an end to this war..." the woman said, looking onto the capital before her, "Before things take a turn for the worst. The rogues were ordered to leave all the hunters alive and leave the generals to mark them while they were unconscious."

"I got that part, but how is it supposed to help us in the long run?" Jackeline asked her.

"Well, to be perfectly honest with you, the only way the rogue king would put an end to this was if the last two people that stand in his way achieved what they were brought into this world to do. The power to strip the wolves of the abilities that make them the perfect tool to annihilate all humans..."

"Stop speaking in riddles and skip over to the part where we do something about all this," Frost groaned.

"We have to get the moon goddess' chosen to mark each other before the king of Lycaon dies. The rogue king has been pulling strings with his spies... trying to play it safe, but when he heard of the king's illness, he changed the game. He stopped trying to keep Cole and Katie apart and decided to just kill them and the king of Lycaon. Kill three birds with one stone, he called it," the woman finished.

...

Micah could tell when it was that his sister stopped responding to her surroundings. He sensed the very moment she was taken out and began preparing for the worst. "Honestly, Evelyn, what were you thinking?" he cursed before turning to the security detail that filled the floor on which the king was being taken care of.

What her sister had done was get rid of all the wolves that surrounded the two powerful figures that were making their way toward the palace. "Everyone better get ready. The enemy is finally upon us. On this day, we put our lives on the line to protect what we always have. Mankind... While protecting the king certainly is an indirect way to it, it sure is a way to make sure we don't lose the war against the rogues. Lend me your strength in fighting the enemy that approaches us. I ask that you all pull out all the stops. It doesn't matter how much of your gifts you expend, unless you intend to kill particular foes, nothing will work against them..."

"Oh, I do love a good speech," a voice rumbled through the halls, shutting the hunter up, "Honestly, making it to this point has been one boring walk, hasn't it, Benji?"

Just then, the boy made his presence clear at the opposite side of the hall... almost half the security detail had already been downed and none of them had noticed the swift movements of the rogues before them. Micah, quickly getting serious, reached into the insides of his coat and thrust the poisoned knives he could find from within its pockets.

The boy moved faster than he had anticipated, dodging all of them with a series of leaps through the air. He moved very fast and used anything he could find, from a hunter in his way to the walls on both sides of him. The chandeliers at the ceiling seemed to be part of the things he could reach as well doing all he could to escape the flying projectiles all while smiling at the hunter's attempts to put him down.

Sensing the enemy to his back, Micah got down just in time to dodge the fist that had been aimed at the back of his head. He retrieved another knife swiftly and slashed at the man's thigh, however, he was only able to nick the skin as the man pivoted out of the way of the blade, bringing himself into a fighting

stance meant to apprehend someone who was fighting against someone armed. The speed with which the man moved told Micah that he was well-trained, "So you're the so-called generals of the Rogue King."

"You've guessed correctly. You get full marks for that one, however, that will not save you from the fate that awaits you. You will be defeated here and now, the man responded. Two hunters came to Micah's aid after snapping out of their daze. The rest seemed to be occupied with the agile boy.

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The hunters backing Micah attacked the man without warning. Micah didn't do anything to stop them as he saw no way that could have helped him or them in the slightest. The man was quick on his feet and he saw the hunters' movements far before they ever made them. Grabbing the wrist of the first one with a motion so fast that the hunter might have been standing still, the man turned and flipped him over his shoulder. Whilst the hunter was still airborne, his back aimed to the ground for a painful crash, the rogue turned on the other and struck his throat with the base of his palm, choking him and dazing him as well. The unsuspecting hunter was now starting to see black spots in his vision from the lightning-fast attack. Micah chose this moment to attack the rogue... while he was still trying to deal with his comrade.

The fight was taking place within the confines of agility. A gift that Micah didn't have, however, he had to do what he could to fight against the general before him. Aiming for the man's side, Micah went to stab his gut. However, the man's motion and focus shifted to the new combatant almost like he'd anticipated the surprise attack. With a lateral swipe with his hand, the side of his palm knocked Micah's hand off-course specifically aimed at the wrist knocking the blade free in the process. The man grabbed him by the rest and pulled him towards him. Knocking the hunter off balance, Samson punched Micah with deadly force in the gut.

The other hunter that was only recovering from the hit to the throat was about to attack when the man pulled at Micah's wrist and swung Micah in his direction. The energy from the rogue was enough to lift Micah off his feet and have him completely used as a projectile, sending the two of them crashing against the wall. Behind him, the other stood up only to fall to the ground unconscious with a boy standing behind him. Blood dripped down the side of the boy's mouth as he'd bitten all the hunters in the room, "You don't even care for keeping them in the right shape before you bite them," Samson sighed.

"What's the fun in that? The bite is a gift that allows them to heal from whatever injuries I deal them. I'm honestly doing all of them a big favour. They get to witness the miracles of turning into a werewolf, isn't that amazing?" the boy said with excitement in his voice. He twirled around his comrade and looked at the man who was only trying to get up from the floor before them, "This one is quite strong."

"Yeah, he was quite strong. I was impressed. When I pulled him, he resisted a great deal compared to the rest. He's clearly well-trained," Samson replied, "I had to resort to brute force with him."

"That's a high compliment coming from you," the boy said, whilst staring at a staggering Micah as though he was an interesting specimen.

“You monsters have my respect. Thorrin wasn’t kidding when he said you were powerful. You took out the entire security detail in such a short time. It makes me wonder what the reason for all this was,” Micah said through gritted teeth.

“Well, that is high praise indeed coming from him. I almost barely got away from him with my life, but alas, he isn’t here and I have gotten much stronger since then. No doubt he has as well... which is why he felt it was best for him to go after our king,” the man said, “You don’t look too good yourself. I was sure I used enough energy to knock you out, but would you look at that? You’re still standing. Now that I take a closer look at you, I can see you have the same looks as that nuisance.”

“Shall I...”

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“No, Benji. This one shall be mine. I shall make him my very own beta. I think it’s fitting of someone like him,” the man replied calmly, “Don’t take this the wrong way. I hold no grudge against your brother. I just like how poetic this sounds...”

Micah felt his intentions far before he started moving and tried his best to move in hopes to get away before it was too late, however, the man before him was quick on the uptake. There was no way he could escape. Even with his eyes closed, he could only draw one conclusion about what was going to happen. The wind was knocked out of him in one swift move and everything went black. Benji leaned back against a wall and in a serious tone, spoke up, “The door is right there. We can finally fulfil the mission the master sent us here to do.”

“Yes, we can... and we shall waste no time in accomplishing it,” Samson replied, standing up and retrieving a handkerchief from his pocket that he used to wipe his mouth clean of the blood that trickled from the sides.

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Thorrin stood panting with his comrade after what felt like an eternity of battling the two enemies before them. Exhaustion threatened to eat his muscles alive. They screamed for relief, but the enemy before him was not one he could just turn his back from, “You know, Thorrin. The title of Perfect Warrior is quite fitting. You’re not as weak as I had thought you would be. I haven’t taken a hunter this seriously for as long as I can remember. You’re all pawns for the Man god. I don’t really understand what he’s thinking putting you against us anyway. He gives you half the power you need to defeat us and you go along with it. It’s pathetic. However, it’s different for you. You have all of it. It’s like he was sure you could do it.”

Thorrin smirked at the man’s words, “Well, I never thought I’d be getting motivated by the very enemy I’m fighting.”

“Do your best to keep me entertained while my generals take care of everything, would you?” the king said to him. Thorrin shot past the beta alpha and was in front of the rogue king before Jim or Thane had the time to react. However, the king himself moved fluidly to counter the man’s attack. The two of them were soon locked in a battle of endurance. The king was quick and nimble as well as powerful. One direct hit from his attacks would render almost anyone unable to fight anymore. The same could be said

for Thorrin... and yet for as long as the fight had droned on, none of them had been able to land a decisive hit.

Jim breathed badly as he watched his comrade continue to fight even when it had seemed as though he was out of energy to continue with the fight. It was intense to watch and he felt as though the Perfect Warrior would collapse soon. It was as though watching the two of them fight would tire one out just from watching. They both moved at incredible speeds that they couldn't afford to take one look away from each other.

The king fought well and held his ground and managed to do it while barely looking strained, while the Perfect Warrior fought a losing battle... That is what anyone watching would be led to believe. Watching the man fighting before him, Jim began to laugh. Thane looked at the one he was meant to fight, "Have you officially lost your mind? Just declare it already."

"No, that's not it... Watching my comrade put his life on the line and fight with everything that he's got just reminded me of something. I've been a complete and utter fool," Jim replied amidst his laughter.

"Would you like to elaborate on that?" Thane asked, crossing his large arms and lending an ear.

"You're an odd bunch. You're so confident that you would indulge my words," Jim wondered.

"Well, there isn't a being in the world that can defeat us. If you two are meant to be the most powerful amongst the hunters, then I don't see something to fear from the hunters. So, yes, do go on..." Thane announced.

"Well, if it's okay with you. Thorrin once told me something. A Mighty Warrior isn't just an exceptional hunter... They are the pillars of survival for all of mankind. At the time, I didn't understand what he meant by that, but I guess now I do," the man spoke. At the same time, he once again allowed himself to reach into the pool of energy he got from his gift, "at this moment, beta alpha, you are standing face to face against the Thunderclap, one of the Four Mighty Warriors. You better be afraid."

While the man spoke, the air seemed to distort about him. He was pooling a large amount of power. Now that he thought of it, he remembered something similar when he was making his way to Brigadia once. There was a girl there that had used so much power that she'd produced among the loudest thunderclaps that he'd ever heard in his life. It had been a stupid move at the time, however, after all the training this old man had been through, pulling off something like that was not going to be a problem.

Over the years, Jim had learnt to hold back with his speed to conserve energy and completely forgotten that this was on the table. Thane began to feel the sting of static from the air, the hairs on his arms and legs raising from being charged. Something was different about the man before him, "Oh, it seems you've chosen to take this serious..." Jim was right before him before he could finish his statement accelerating to a speed beyond that the man had expected.

The beta alpha brought up his hands to protect his head from the double kick that was aimed at his face. Jim landed on the man's forehands and followed through with all the force from his speed. In the next moment, the beta alpha shot across the clearing and right into a tree. The rogue king faltered at the thunderous clap that rang through the forest. At the moment that he faltered, his opponent spun around in a deadly round kick that connected with the rogue king's side, a crunch sounding at the

moment of contact and sending him flying across the clearing as well and in the same direction as his beta alpha, "I'm glad to see you finally remembered why it is we called you the thunderclap."

Jim was brimming with power from his gift. He'd forgotten what it felt like to truly let go of his limitations, "Yeah... I'd completely forgotten."

"This is such a hassle," the king's voice came as he groaned, preparing to get up from his spot on the ground. Just as he was about to stand up, a look of absolute horror flashed across the rogue's face. The king fell back down to his knees, "What...?"

The Mighty Warriors were shocked to see the man falter in his composure. The look on his face was one of horror and he spaced out regardless of the enemies before him. His eyes looked at nothing in particular and it was soon clear that what scared him was nothing his eyes could see. The beta alpha didn't look that ready to fight either. The hunters looked at their enemies who seemed to be slowly deteriorating in their confidence. "There is nothing you can do to prove what any of them have just said."

"Any of who..." Thorrin was stopped by a rustel beyond the treeline.

Just then, Jackeline and Frost emerged from the cover of the trees with a phone in hand, "Would you like to hear it from the future king himself or the future Luna? Take your pick. They are both on the opposite side of this phone call."

"Wait, Jackeline, are you telling me he's right there with you?" a feminine voice came through from the other side of the phone.

"Yes, Katie... he's right here before me. Thorrin... I mean, the Perfect Warrior was just giving him a thrashing. As I can guess, the other captives have already told him what happened. He knows what's happening and that all this was for nothing..."

"I see... Well, his plan in Sirius failed as well. So perhaps he can be captured without putting up much of a fuss knowing running away will breed him no results as well. The hunters have agreed to make a full sweep of everything in no man's land. The flush-out plan that was made eighteen years ago is going to be implemented. We'll find out where every one of his breeding centres is and put an end to his wicked acts. It's only a matter of time," Katie spoke from the other side of the phone.

"What about my beta alpha?" the rogue king spoke up.

"Oh, he speaks... Your beta alpha has been well contained. You have nothing to worry about. We'll take care of him as best we can," Cole spoke up from the other side of the phone as well, "Cutting off communications was definitely one way to bring yourself to ruin. In trying to keep us from calling for reinforcements, you also stopped him from communicating with you about recent developments. When he saw the marks on our shoulders, he wanted to tell you everything. He fought valiantly to escape, but there is only so much you can do against the rogue killer."

Jackeline reached into her coat and retrieved cuffs to place around the rogue king's hands. The man barely put up any resistance as she put his hands behind him and started cuffing him. Thorrin was bewildered when everything was all of a sudden over, "What exactly happened?" he asked the woman before him...

“Well...”

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Katie was briefed by Marie on what was going on in Lycaon based on what they had been told on their way to Sirius. The woman had come with the feeling that something terribly wrong was going on in Sirius... and she'd been right.

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Not long before the invasion of the reserve in Sirius....

“You don't have to keep pacing, you know,” Marie told his impatient husband, “This is the fastest mode of transportation after all. We will get there in time.”

“That still doesn't put my feelings at ease. Katie promised she wouldn't get herself in trouble. I can't help but think there is something more to this. We didn't raise a reckless girl, you know.”

“Oh, honey, you can never predict how a child will turn out. You, of all people, know that. Just look at Micah. None of us ever thought he would get a Prometheus gift and yet, he got it eventually. His heart was in the right place despite how lazy he'd always been. Katie caught on with everything we taught her with next to no resistance. She was bound to have a flaw somewhere,” the woman tried.

“I know and that's what's putting me on edge. Her constant need to protect everyone leads her to make irrational decisions. I know she has proven that she can think rationally from time to time, but when she really thought it mattered, she flew completely off the handle. She can't stand it when someone's life is in danger and she ends up forgetting her life matters as well...”

The woman sighed, “Can't argue with that logic. You're completely correct.” Silence fell between the two of them. Tom resumed his pacing about the length of the plane drawing a deeper sigh from his wife, “This is going to be a long flight.”

Just then, the phone at the table began to buzz. The woman looked at the number on it... It was from one of the higher-ups. The ones who never even got to fight at all, but dictated the actions of the hunters and where they were to be stationed based on the information they received. It had been a while since these two had been summoned by them and the organization had even given up considering how much they did everything on their own.

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The two of them eyed each other and the phone, none of them wanting to answer it, “What do you think they want?” Tom whispered.

His wife narrowed her eyes at him, “I haven't answered it yet. Why are you whispering?” When the man only smiled sheepishly at her, she hit the answer button and greeted the person on the other side, voicing her name as well as that of her husband.

“It's good the two of you are together. We need to ask a favour of you,” the man on the other side asked. Out of all the hunters in the world, these were among the only few that the higher-ups had to beg to handle a job. They usually did what they wanted and told them off, claiming they were doing

something that was far more important which was usually true. After being told off so many times, they received fewer calls from them.

“Well, we are headed to Sirius. Unless this favour is in line with what we are trying to achieve, I don’t see a reason to help you out,” the woman replied.

The man on the other side of the phone coughed at the reply before regaining his composure, “You know one of these days, we might just clip your wings.”

“If this is one of the threats you’ve been practising all these days, Councilman, you are getting even worse than you used to be,” the woman replied.

“Well, gladly, I don’t have to threaten you this time. You happen to be going to meet the very person we want to talk to,” the man said to her.

“What is that supposed to mean, Councilman?”

“Well, it’s about the war in Lycaon. I will take you through our findings and why it is important that you get to your adoptive daughter as soon as possible,” without much resistance from the couple, the man on the other side began to go through the events and findings they’d made. There were many questions that came up along the way, but the couple tried to keep them to a minimum until the Councilman was done speaking.

“Well, that definitely makes our reunion a lot more important than I would have thought it to be,” Tom groaned.

“Exactly... the two of you are to find Katie and get her through to communicate with Lycaon. If the information of her being marked can reach the rogues, their formations will crumble. They don’t have reason to attack the capital if their goals won’t be achieved,” the man said to them.

“What happens if we get to the girl too late? What if she’s not marked by the time we find her?” Marie asked them.

“Well, then... It’s all a race against time now, isn’t it?” the councilman said to her, “Find her and make sure she gets marked as soon as you can. This means you also have to find the prince of Lycaon as well.”

“We understand,” Marie confirmed. She was just about to turn the phone off before the man’s voice came through from the other side.

“And Marie... Welcome back. The world has been missing its pillar in the time you’ve been gone. It’s good to see you back,” the man said to her.

“It’s good to be back, Councilman Henry. You have no idea,” the woman replied with a smile on her face. When she turned the phone off, she turned to face her husband, “Well, it seems Katie didn’t get herself in trouble after all...”

“Yeah, trouble seems to have found her instead,” Tom finished her suspicions.

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The plane reached Sirius deep into the night, a time that none of them had planned to arrive. However, upon looking down on the capital, their senses confirmed that they were not going to find their daughter down there. Instead, they had the pilot fly the plane according to their instructions. "A game reserve... What is Katie doing this far from the capital?"

"I don't know, but something smells very fishy about this all. Not to mention, I detect another person of interest," Tom spoke up.

"Yeah, I can detect that too. We are going to have to split up at the moment. I will go after Katie and get her to communicate with the Lycaon while you can..." the woman froze in her words. She could tell something was wrong on the ground they were going to.

"Don't worry, honey. She will be just fine," Tom tried to calm her down. They both faced the forest below them, the back door of the plane opened and the wind began whipping through their hair, uninvited. It was an experience they hadn't come to do in a long time. More than eighteen years to be honest, "Good luck, Tom said to her right before she let herself fall from the plane.

The male used the handrails to go back to the pilot against the roaring wind from the open door, directing him to fly over the forest in a direction unknown to him either. He knew where he was going albeit completely by instinct. "Sir, are you sure this is where you want to go?" the pilot asked him.

"Yes, it is... Why, what do you see?" Tom asked, budging into the pilot's room.

"Well, it's all thick forest and there is barely a sign of life. Not to mention it's no man's land outside the reserve. The dangers in that forest are bound to be more than the dangers in the reserve combined," the man said to him.

"I'm a hunter. I'm not sure there is a lot on this planet that can hurt me. Most of the creatures that can hurt me are already in Lycaon, so I'm quite sure I'll be fine," Tom replied, heading back to the back door and leaping out as well.

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Katie listened without batting an eyelash at the tale her adoptive mother laid out to her. She barely asked any questions... Mostly because she didn't have any... Her mind was all but mesmerized by the fact that the woman spoke before her. The two of them hadn't seen each other in such a long time that she only wanted to spend time with her. This part of her intentions she kept to herself, even though she was sure Cole had already read through them like she was an open book.

"By the time I landed, the fight in the forest had ended and you were headed here with your friends. I knew you were going to get into a fight with the wolf at the cell phone tower. You heading out here is what told me there was something wrong with communications. I wasn't sure if I was to help you... Your enemy was quite strong indeed, but the moment he saw your mark, he did exactly what the council thought would happen. He lost his will to fight. You fought him whilst he only had the interest of protecting himself."

"If that was the case, then why didn't he run while he had the chance?" the girl asked her.

"He had to wear you out first so that you wouldn't follow him. He would have never thought you would be able to best him in a duel even if you put had your mind to it. With the entire plan on the verge of

collapse, he couldn't find a way out of his situation. He could have also wanted you to defeat him. Telling his king of this discovery was bound to bring the rogue king into a similar state which would then cause him to get captured. To put it bluntly, there was nothing he could do about it..."

"It's like you were thinking out loud before you gave me that answer," Katie grumbled before speaking aloud, leaving no chance for the woman to counter, "So just because Cole marked me in time... the rogues have completely lost the war?" Katie asked, passing her hand on the mark on her shoulder.

"Yes, that's exactly true. The Moon Goddess came up with the same plan eighteen years ago that was sure to bring the rogues down. If the chosen were allowed to live, it would mean the end of everything they stood for. That's why she sacrificed so much to keep you safe and away from the rogues," Aunt Marie explained.

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Katie stared at the man on the ground before them. She had heard everything her aunt had to say about the situation at hand, "So with just one phone call, this can all come to an end?" she asked her.

"That is what we're going for. I know it's not the way you thought this would all end, but an ending is an ending. There is nothing more to it than that. When all is said and done, humanity hasn't seen a brighter day than today, Katie. Your union with Cole brings the tyranny of the rogue king to an end. You will be able to see the man that's been behind all this behind bars. His execution will be announced and the plan the hunters had come up with eighteen years ago will be seen to the fruition."

"What plan are you talking about, Aunt Marie?" Katie asked her.

"Well, it went by many names, but one of the most famous names we used at the time was the purification plan. The hunters were to go through all no man's land snuffing out the last of the rogues. They were to find all their hiding places and cleanse the world of the last of their kind. Without them being able to multiply and breed, it was only a matter of time before they would be completely wiped from the face of the planet."

Katie listened to her adoptive mother's words as though they were a fairy tale from a foreign land. After everything she'd put herself through her whole life, this didn't feel like it was the way it was supposed to end and yet... It's what they all had wanted. She couldn't argue and it wasn't in her place to question their decisions. There was one thing she couldn't let go of in spite of everything, "Why does he get to live?" she asked.

"Oh, you mean the rogue king," her adoptive mother sighed, "To be honest with you, the world would be a better place if he wasn't in it and I completely agree with you. The man should be put down as soon as possible instead of wasting time giving him the chance to 'reflect,'" the woman said, raising her fingers to quote the word 'reflect', "...on his actions. He deserves to be put down and his power completely erased from this world. In my opinion, as long as he still draws breath, there is someone out there that he's oppressing and those people deserve to go to sleep knowing they are safe as well."

"Katie," Cole called out to the girl. As she had now grown used to the attention his voice demanded of her, she replied by allowing her undivided attention, "The phone call. We can make it as both of us. The rogue king would have less of a problem believing us if the both of us speak to him."

“Yeah... I guess that would make sense,” while the offer made sense to the girl, she could feel the warmth with which the alpha made it. He was also allowing her to feel like she didn’t have to do it all on her own and Katie appreciated the gesture much more than he would have thought.

“I’ll get in contact with headquarters then...” Aunt Marie replied, getting her phone out and dialling the necessary phone numbers.

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A buzz came from Katie’s pockets almost scaring her out of her skin. She retrieved the phone from her pocket and her eyes widened when she saw it was coming from none other than the king of Sirius, “Hello, father...”

“KATIE, WHAT IS GOING ON OVER THERE?” the man yelled through the phone.

“What do you mean? What are you doing awake this late in the night?” she asked the man, trying to withstand his screams.

“Well, I have just woken up, to be honest, but I’ve been trying to reach your phones for an hour. Why couldn’t I get through to you?” the man asked her.

“Well, there was a bit of an incident at the reserve,” the girl said to him, staggering a little. The royal by her side caught her just in time, steadying her just in time. With trouble gone, exhaustion seemed to be seeping in fast.

“Are you okay?” the king asked her.

“Yes, I am fine, but there are injured students at the hotel. I was able to get communications back up, but I don’t think some of the students will be able to make the return journey,” the girl said through the phone.

“I will get medical personnel closest to the reserve travelling as soon as possible. You and Lina are to come back to the palace first thing in the morning. I received an odd phone call while I was trying to reach you. Bring Cole as well... We have something troubling to discuss,” the king sighed.

“Yeah, we’ll be there as soon as we can,” she said.

“That’s good to hear. Katie...” the man paused, “Take care of yourself. I was given a full report on your tendencies, so don’t go around trying to get yourself a few fractures. You might be able to heal but you can still feel a lot...”

“I’m fine, father. The rogues have been defeated. I have no more reason to break my bones, okay?” the girl chuckled, cutting the king short.

The king groaned, “Honestly, Katie, what am I going to do with you?”

Earning laughter from his daughter, “Goodbye, father. You should get a little more sleep as well. The reserve is quite far, so we won’t be back home until later today. You can do what you’ve always done with me though...”

“And what might that be, Luna Katie?”

The girl, along with her mate gasped at the man's words, "How long?"

"I'm a royal that's one of the two royal families. Wouldn't you think I'd notice on the day when most of my power was stripped from me," the man chuckled through the phone, "However, when I heard the rogues were still gathering in Lycaon, I realized the rogue king hadn't noticed which was thanks to the way you masked your marking ceremony."

"We didn't know what would happen if we revealed our marking. So we didn't tell anyone and kept the two packs from finding out as well. Did we do the right thing?" the girl asked him.

"Hmm... I cannot tell you if you did the right thing or not. You'll have to see the results of that when you hear the outcome of the battle in Sirius and weigh the other possibilities," the king groaned, "But if you wanted to know what I think, you did the right thing."

"Thanks. That's reassuring..." Katie replied even though something in the pit of her stomach turned when he mentioned the battle in Lycaon.

"Stay safe, Katie," the man said through the phone, "The same goes for you, Cole."

Katie leaned into her mate, "Yeah, we'll be fine." A beeping sound signified the disconnected phone call. Just then, Marie walked up to her with the phone in her hand.

"Is Katie with you?" a familiar voice came from the other side of the phone. It was feminine and she knew exactly who it was.

"Yes, I'm right here, Jackeline. I heard you were supposed to..."

"Whatever you heard might have been true. I'm sorry for the hurry, Katie, but at the moment, we don't have that much time to chat. The battle is ugly, but if this works, then it will all be over," Jackeline said to her.

"Are you okay, Jackeline?" the girl asked next.

The other side of the phone call went silent for a bit. It sounded like the woman on the other side was running. Where they were running to remained unknown to Katie, "Of all questions, you could ask... You haven't changed one bit, have you, Katie?"

"I've changed a lot," the girl responded smugly.

"You always were such a terrible liar. Your parents came to your aid just because they detected you had something dangerous up your sleeve, but from what I've heard, you haven't done it yet. While I make it to the rogue king, spill it," Jackeline commanded.

Katie couldn't believe they'd read through her that fast. Jeremiah walked up to the talking crew and spoke before Katie had found the courage, "She asked that I help her get to Kyle so that she can rescue him."

"WHAT??? Wait, is that even possible?" Jackeline yelled.

"Well, from the last group of rogues that the beta alpha summoned, I can tell their base is almost abandoned..."

“So he is your beta alpha after all,” the rogue paralysed on the ground surmised.

“I told you to think of it what you want. You know about him and me, so simply draw your conclusions. I won’t indulge you by confirming which one is true,” Katie responded.

“You’re only trying to get me to stop suspecting you and you’re pretty smart with your words, but...”

“Who’s that you’re all talking to? Is that the beta alpha you’ve defeated? Wow, I still can’t believe you were able to defeat one of those things. No, I don’t believe it. Not after what’s happened at the capital,” the woman mentioned.

“What exactly happened at the capital?” Cole’s voice finally sounded, sending the entire group into silence. Jackeline couldn’t think of a way to answer the man... She would probably have to tell him everything she knew herself...

“I’m sorry, your majesty...”

‘Your majesty...?’

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The two generals made it into the room, taking out everyone that posed any resistance to them. That included all the medical personnel that was tending to the king. The man in the bed did not bat an eyelash while the people around him were brutally put to sleep, including his wife. The king stayed silent through the violence around him. He was surprised, however, at how careful the rogues were being in subduing their enemies.

It was as though they knew the enemy posed them no threat as long as they made it to their goal. “If it isn’t the king of the Lycaon Empire. This old crone has really fallen. Get a load of the scent of death that comes from him,” Benji pinched his nose, backing away from the king.

Samson walked up to the side of the king’s bed, “You know why we’re here, don’t you?”

“Yes, I do. Although, I don’t know why you bother,” the king asked, “After all, I was meant to die today.”

“Oh, we all thought you would kick the bucket much earlier than today. To be honest, I think you knew all along what would happen if you died before your son found his mate, so you have been holding on to your pathetic life to buy him more time. The rogue king noticed this strategy. Honestly, I don’t see how someone in a hospital bed and with barely any energy can put up this much of a fight. At the end of the day, you were like that one thorn in the king’s side that he couldn’t seem to get out of the picture,” Samson said to him.

“I would like to ask you something, general of the rogue king,” the king turned to face the general at his bedside. The man only remained silent. Taking that as a sign to proceed, the king spoke up, “What made you think you didn’t have to kill the hunters and enemies you found on your way here?”

Silence took over the two of them, “You must be dense for a king, considering that has an obvious answer. Don’t you see the colour of my eyes?”

“Well, did you ever consider the power of your bite to be nothing more than a bee sting?” the king asked him.

“Now I’m sure the Lycaon king has completely lost his mind,” the man began to laugh hysterically as though the king had just cracked the funniest joke in history, “I have turned many wolves in my time and they have all followed me as rogues. Most of them never made it, but hey... They all proved we could always get more. And with your death, we’ll be able to command all the wolves in the Lycaon empire to do our bidding. We’ll be unstoppable. I hate to cut our conversation short, but your time to die has come. Killing you has never felt any more satisfying.”

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The rogue raised his hand into the air and extended his claws. Right before he could bring his hand down on the king, “You don’t even think to interpret what I’m saying.” This was what the king said before the man brought his claws down on the king’s throat.

“You know, Samson. You blame me for being the heartless one, but...” the boy paused in his words almost as though the breath had been knocked out of him. Samson looked up to see someone standing not far from him holding the boy’s unconscious body in their arms. He recognized the one that had just attacked the boy, however, he couldn’t understand what the woman was doing awake.

“What are you doing awake? The venom from my bite should have kept you out for at least five hours,” the general barked at the woman.

Evelyn looked at the man before him and the bite mark she’d only tight up a few moments ago with a few bits of fabric she’d found. The bite hurt no more than a normal wound did and it confirmed a lot, “You almost wiped out the entire hunter’s association. I can’t believe we could be defeated so easily by a bunch of mutts. Not to mention this kid did most of the damage. Give up now while you have the chance.”

“What are you talking about? We have the upper hand here. There isn’t a person alive that could...” it was only now that the king’s last words reached him. ‘You don’t even think to interpret what I’m saying.’ ‘Did you ever consider the power of your bite to be nothing more than a bee sting?’ ‘What made you think you didn’t have to kill the hunters and enemies you found on your way here?’ The words the king spoke could only sound like those of someone who knew something that he didn’t. “Hey, what are you doing? Weren’t you bitten?”

“I see you’ve begun to catch up,” the woman replied. Just then, hunters began to file into the room, completely surrounding the man. All the hunters that filed into the room barely looked worn out. While Samson still had a lot of energy to spare for an escape, he didn’t see a need to do so. Without the power of his bite, everything he had done until this point was completely pointless. They had lost thousands of rogues in this attack, telling them they were to knock out the hunters. overwhelming them with numbers. It didn’t really matter if a few of them were killed by accident. They only needed the majority in the end...

“No, they haven’t yet marked each other. We were sure of...” thinking back to those that were responsible for delivering them with information, the man began to doubt just how much was true with the information he was given, “It doesn’t make sense. I’ve seen that kid kill hunters before. He wouldn’t betray us one bit. There is nothing for him amongst the hunters. He has his place amongst the rogues.”

Delusions began to set in as the hunters apprehended the man. Evelyn handed the boy over to other hunters that came in and they began to secure him as well, tying him up with chains and cuffing his hands and legs so fast that one could have thought they were afraid of him waking up. The female hunter retrieved her phone from her pocket and began to make a phone call when a commotion came rushing to the king's room.

"Can we speak to Evelyn? We have the information we'd like to deliver," the woman made her way through the hunters and soon reached the man and woman that were waiting outside. They were both winded, no doubt from the running they had to do in order to make it to the palace.

"What seems to be the problem?" she asked them.

"We have a way to end the fighting. If the rogues get to know the king can't turn more hunters into rogues like they think he can, then they will lose their will to fight. They just have to know of their unknown weakness," the man said in between breaths.

"Oh, so is that what happened with the generals in there?" the woman said thoughtfully. "Well then... In that case, why don't you go meet the rogue king himself?"

"What? You don't mean..."

"Yes, we are to make a phone call to the higher-ups and have them connect us to the Moon Goddess' Chosen so that they can confirm their union. If that can happen before the rogue king himself, then we can end it. We can end it all. We'll make sure the king of Lycaon didn't lose his life for nothing," the woman said to them.

Frost and Jackeline could barely believe what they were hearing at the time. With the desired number of phone calls, the two of them had Katie and Cole on the other side. All they had to do was make it to the rogue king deep within the forest. "He's fighting with Thorrin and Jim. You won't be in that much trouble when you make it to them. The woman said to them... I will stay behind and handle damage control."

As soon as that was said, the two of them bowed in respect to her and were gone. Evelyn walked up to the window panes on the other side of the wall. Looking out at the carnage that had taken place in the capital, she dreaded counting the losses on their side with her whole being. The fight was still going on, however, the hunters had lost most of their strength and the rogues seemed to be overwhelming them. "Hunters, we shall proceed to the battle ahead of us and put an end to all this." The hunters that had just recovered took one look at the battlefield and obeyed the woman's orders.

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Katie got all the information Jackeline knew of as she made her way to the fight going on deep within the forest. The sound of fighting was clear to her once they got close. A loud thunderclap confirmed the two groups were fighting at their best. Shivers ran down the girl's spine as she silently prayed for the safety of the hunters fighting for the sake of humanity. "Damn... Jim is a lot stronger than he lets on..." Frost said more to himself.

The two of them had gotten there just in time to see the king and Jim go down. However, there seemed to be a change in the king's composure. It seemed their arrival was only rubbing salt in an open wound. As Katie and Cole spoke to the man, it became clear he'd already come to know of it through a mind link

with his generals. The rogue king was walked back to the capital. The last of the rogues were taken care of.

“So, he’s gone then?” after the king had been taken away. Somehow, Jackeline was sure the boy was not talking about the rogue king at all.

“I’m sorry, Cole.”

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Tom Chase looked about the woods as the ground came up during his descent from the sky. There wasn’t a sign of life in the woods he was searching through. Pulling the chute out, he slowed his descent, making it into the canopy of the woods. The hunter took off the chute and made his way to the forest floor, following his senses as he walked through the forest.

He was completely oblivious to his surroundings, but it wasn’t the first time he’d gotten himself in a situation like this one. He followed his instincts through the woods. The trees were packed together in a way he couldn’t believe. He followed through, making his way through the woods in an effort to get to the place his senses were leading him, ‘Honestly, Katie, what would you be looking for in a place like this?’

The hunter forced himself through the ever-decreasing spaces until he could feel as though he might never make it to his goal. However, the harder it got to move, the more he felt like his goal was within reach. He reached out before him when he felt his ribs pressed against the two trees on both sides. To his surprise, there was free space only a short distance beyond him even though he wasn’t sure what was beyond the compacted trees.

‘I guess I’ll have to find a way through...’ the man sighed... Expelling most of the air within his lungs, he pushed himself through with all the energy he could muster, having studied the walls and surmised that he had a slim chance of going through. Once he was through the woods, he collapsed on the floor panting heavily.

Looking about the clearing proved to be impossible for the human as there was barely a shred of light let in by the thick canopy from above. ‘If I had no idea how to use my other senses, this would have been quite the problem,’ the man thought to himself whilst getting off the ground. “Who’s there?” a voice rang out in the night.

Tom’s hand instinctively reached into his coat for one of his blades. Before him, was the object of Katie’s downfall. Up until that moment, the man hadn’t known who or what it was Katie would want from such a place. He hadn’t expected someone to live this far in the wild as well. There was barely a sign of a cottage in the woods and yet, his ears told him the owner of the voice he heard before him, “It’s been a long time, Kyle.”

The boy backed up against the door he’d used to access the clearing. His sharp eyes retrieved what he needed to see in the clearing. Before him, stood Katie’s adoptive father. His hand was placed inside his coat in a similar manner to one he’d seen Katie use before in Brigadia. Every time she meant to use a throwing knife, she would reach out to the blades on the opposite side of the hand that retrieved them to allow her the required force to launch the deadly projectiles. Considering this hunter was not a werewolf like his dear alpha, he was sure the blades contained wolfsbane.

“Yeah, it’s been some time. What brings you to my humble abode, Mr Thomas,” the boy asked in a shaky voice. The aura coming from the man also confirmed he had his powers again which was only worse news for him.

“Well, I came here because Katie wants to come here. She was going to come here once she was done dealing with the rogues at the reserve. Although I’m not sure I know what she would be doing coming here. Would she be coming here to kill you or capture you?” the man questioned, “It’s not like you have any idea anyway. I shouldn’t have...”

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“No, actually... I’m glad you asked even though you won’t believe the answer that I give you. Katie is far too caring for her own good. Even when she displays how tough she is to everyone, she doesn’t do anything without a reason. I’ve never seen her hit anyone out of pure rage and even when she tried to do it, she made sure those people didn’t get hurt. I found it weird sometimes...”

“Would you get to the point? I came here for a happy reunion with my daughter and for some reason ended up out here looking for the one boy that almost caused her to lose her life,” the man argued.

“That wasn’t me. It was Jeremiah and to be honest with you. Katie is the one who seemed to want to kill me that day. You didn’t see the bite she put in me that night. I was suffering from it for days after that,” the boy complained.

“Wait, Katie bit you?” Tom asked.

“Yeah, she did...”

There was silence between the two of them. Tom couldn’t sense any trickery behind the boy’s words, but it only made less sense to him, “How are you still alive if that’s the case?”

“I don’t think she meant to kill me at the time. I was unconscious and woke up without the ability to do anything that could bring her harm. For some reason, that included opening my eyes,” Kyle explained.

Tom sighed, letting his hands fall from his jacket, “This makes things a whole lot more complicated. Are there any other rogues here?”

“I’m not sure. I know there is one that I found cleaning equipment earlier, but other than him, I haven’t seen anyone else in this compound,” he explained as he led the man through the corridors and halls of the bizarre establishment.

As Tom followed the boy, he came to realise that this was all beneath the canopy. As to how the rogues were able to accomplish it was beyond his comprehension. He knew, however, that they would not be able to find it if they hadn’t known what they were looking for. He began to take mental notes of the nature of the establishment. It was soon clear to him that everything was built within the bizarre nature itself.

The forest, at this point, had grown to be impenetrable and the rogues had taken advantage of that to build something that could never be discovered simply because nature made it seem like it was impossible to build within it, “This place must have taken many years to build.”

“There are many others like it. With how the average rogues are treated, I don’t think it took as long as it would have. The rogue king can force his will on those he has bitten and the alphas can also enforce their will on the others. It would only be a matter of time with the rogues working almost nonstop to have this entire place built,” Kyle explained.

His cooperation only astounded the hunter more. As they rounded a corner, Tom sensed another presence and sent two throwing knives flying into the darkness. The rogue before them barely had the time to speak as one of the knives had gone through his throat. Tom rushed forward, glad that light had sprung into his eyes, and grabbed the man, allowing him to fall to the ground calmly and taking the lantern in his hand away from him.

“I was meaning to ask you,” Tom asked the boy, “Why are you being so cooperative?”

Kyle sighed, “I am under the influence of my alpha. I don’t have much of a choice these days. Her will is greater than my own. I wish... no, I wished to have a life of luxury under the rogue king’s rule while she wished to bring him down. She was more than determined to do so. And I went along with it. I didn’t have much of a choice. She’s more superior to me in every way... and yet...”

“And yet what?”

“And yet, she doesn’t want to kill me,” Tom gasped at the revelation. Once again he sensed no trickery behind the boy’s words. Instead, they sounded sad and distant, “That fool... She thinks she can save me even after everything I’ve done. When you showed up here, I was half-hoping you wouldn’t catch on.”

“And why is that?” Tom asked. There was a silence between them, giving Tom the desired time to figure it out, “You know I wouldn’t have done it without a proper reason. Killing a rogue that’s on its own with no backup. Not to mention my daughter’s childhood friend. You don’t really think that’s something I would have done, do you?”

“I don’t have much to say in that regard, but if you had gone through with it, then she wouldn’t have to deal with trash like me. I have betrayed her in the worst way imaginable and she chooses to give me another chance. The rogues were going to figure it out soon enough. I just had to stay here...”

“Then I shall take you to Katie and she will pass her judgement,” Tom said to him before taking down one more rogue. The hunter didn’t detect any danger within the compound and they walked out of it smoothly. It was only after they were far from it and walking in the direction of the reserve that a massive explosion shook the ground. It had come from the direction of the compound.

“Well, there is another way I could have left this world. It’s like the world doesn’t want me to die. That’s got to be a punishment more painful than death,” the boy mumbled to himself.

“Just save your suicidal talk for later. That explosion was meant to take out Katie in case she came to rescue you. And if she didn’t... well, they would be getting rid of a traitor. Either way, you were getting out of the picture,” Tom surmised.

Kyle could barely believe it. When he’d felt his master’s emotions earlier, she’d been coming up with a plan to get him out of the compound. It made sense to him now, but it also made him much sadder than he already was. ‘It doesn’t make sense, Katie. Just give up on me already. You won’t find any good in trying to redeem a lost cause...’

250 [Bonus chapter]Chapter Two Hundred Fifty

Katie returned to the hotel along with the others and went through the damage report with Trevor. The junior hunter had spent the entire night awake as well. His eyes showed his exhaustion, but he held himself firm while he told her everything he could about what happened with the pack of wolves that had gone out that night. He also took her to the room containing the two humans that had been bitten that night.

Honour had taken it upon herself to replace their bandages every two hours. They didn't look to be in good condition, but given the news Katie gave them, they would make it. Lina came rushing into the room while Katie was checking the boy's temperature. Almost forgetting the reason she had come into the room in the first place, the hunter greeted her sister with a warm hug, "I didn't think you'd listen to me when I told you to stay behind."

"I didn't think you would make it back here in one piece," Lina replied.

"Well, I am here now," Katie chuckled, "How is everyone holding up?"

"I have tried my best to lift their spirits. It seems stories of the rogue killer can do the trick. Sandra knows quite a bunch even though they sound heavily exaggerated," the girl laughed, pulling back and wiping the tears from her eyes, "Father called around an hour ago. He was furious. He thought I'd been putting off his calls this entire time."

"He'll probably run himself to the grave with worry one time," Katie added, allowing her mind to drift. She still had to check on many people, "I guess it would be best if we went from one room to the next until we made sure everyone was fine."

"I'll single out the rooms that contain only humans so that you know which ones to skip," Trevor offered, leading the way out.

"Speaking of Sandra, where is the girl?" Katie asked once she had cleared her mind during their inspection.

Lina's smile faded at the question, "She said she didn't want to talk to you just yet. I'm sorry."

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"You have nothing to apologise for. I will talk to her myself when we get the chance," Katie responded. There was so much for her to do and many friends to check up on that she couldn't choose which one to start with. 'When did I become so popular?'

'This must be what it's like to develop an ego,' Ashley pitched in.

'ASHLEY...'

'And to think I was one of the people you completely forgot about. Honestly, what kind of person are you? How can you forget your other half?' the wolf complained.

'I... I didn't forget you, Ashley. I could never...'

'I was just messing with you, Katie. Your mind is a mess. You're tired and you still can't stop thinking about that one person they stopped you from saving, can you?' Ashley asked.

'No, I can't. Can you help me save him, Ashley?' the girl asked the wolf. Thinking back to the battle in Brigadia when the wolf had taken complete control of her body and the hunter had gone to rest. The boost was significant, but eventually, the two of them had exhausted everything they had and come face to face with the same creature that had been defeated that day.

'No, Katie. I can't help you.'

'Why not?'

'It's quite simple really. We made a promise to him. At the moment, I'm the only thing keeping you from collapsing where you stand. You used up a lot of energy when you were firing arrows earlier, but you refused to acknowledge it. That bow can only be used by someone with a strong gift because it required immense energy for anyone to use it. You used it as though it was a very normal bow. Not to mention the battle you had with the rogue up at the cell tower. We cannot do anything at the moment,' the wolf said to her.

'I will do something about it. You know I will...'

'Katie, you've been ignoring some of your senses. And you've been doing it for a while now. You only take what you think will help you and leave the rest,' Ashley cut her short. Katie got the feeling this was the beginning of her very own intervention. However, it was taking place in her head. She took the time to break away from their conversation to speak to the wolves they found during their inspections. Their werewolves were healing nicely and the stories from Sandra and Lina seemed to have done well for their moods.

When compared to a pack that had only come close to being annihilated by rogues, they were making progress. Much to Katie's surprise, the humans had slept through the entire ordeal as though nothing had happened, "Were we really that quiet out there?" she asked Cole.

Cole got the feeling she was exaggerating the scene in her mind, "Well, we weren't exactly whispering while we fought off the rogues, but it wasn't loud enough to wake a sleeping human. You forget they have a terrible sense of hearing."

"Oh yeah... that's right," she exclaimed.

Cole groaned at the odd imagination he'd read from her mind, "I'm astonished you can keep up with her, Cole," Aunt Marie interrupted the couple.

"Well, that is kind of my job. She tends to overdo it a lot of times. I just want to make sure she doesn't do it," he said to her.

"It's almost like you don't trust her to handle herself carefully," Aunt Marie narrowed his eyes at her.

"I don't trust her in that regard as much as I can throw her," Cole complained.

"Hey, Cole, that's mean. I can take care of myself if I put my mind to it," Katie tried to plead her case.

“Then what was that I heard about you trying to save Kyle after getting rid of the rogue,” Cole asked her sending the party into silence. Talk of Kyle hadn’t surfaced in a long time and not many were happy to hear the name.

“What do you mean by saving Kyle? It sounds like a joke to me. Doesn’t putting him in the ground sound like a better alternative?” Caden spoke up first. His intention had been to raise morale, but the death glare Katie was giving Cole didn’t help the situation.

“I might have bitten Kyle when I was trying to secure him back in Brigadia,” Katie announced, taking her eyes off Cole.

“You know, Katie. You always seem to have one interesting thing about you after another. There is this rumour I’ve heard that you control animals. Of course, most of us did witness the eagle that hung about you while you watched over the forest, but one can never be too sure until...”

“Turns out I can, Trevor. I only found out recently when a certain someone got themselves trapped in a bear’s cave. It came as a shock to me as well. Although I wasn’t planning on revealing it so soon. Then again...”

“If you hadn’t shown that power, Katie, we would have had more than a few injuries. Many of the members of your pack would be dead by now,” Cole said to her, pulling her into a hug. The door to yet another room with werewolves opened to reveal Crysta seated at her bed, her eyes trained on the far wall and her mind deep in thought. The girl snapped out of it to see her new visitors. On the other bed was Sandra lying down in her bed. She shifted her vision to the door, taking note of their visitors and shifted her attention back to the white ceiling.

Katie walked into the room and straight to her best friend’s bed. The girl barely spared the hunter a glance, “Hey...”

“Katie...” Marie called out to the girl, “We’ll handle the rest of the inspection.” Katie nodded and mouthed a silent ‘thank you’ before allowing the rest of them to proceed with the inspection. Lina grabbed the spacing delta’s arm and dragged her out of the room against her will and numerous complaints.

Silence filled the room once the rest of Katie’s companions were gone and the two of them were left to themselves. Sandra rolled away from the girl and pinned her eyes to the wall away from her, “I awakened my gift, you know. Saved a lot of wolves out there.”

Katie gasped at the revelation, “That’s amazing. We should...”

“Celebrations would be nice. However, what is it supposed to mean for us, Katie? Without you as my mentor, I won’t be obligated to stay by you wherever you go. We’ll be separated before too long by the Hunter Organization.”

Katie frowned at her friend’s thinking. While what she’d said was true, Katie couldn’t imagine a world in which she allowed something like that to happen to the two of them. “Hey, Sandra... We shall be together as long as the two of us are best friends and hunters. I don’t think Jason will let that happen either.”

“What makes you think Jason has the power to keep me from being stationed somewhere else?” Sandra asked her.

“Well, you have quite the number of things you don’t know yet... For starters, the rogue king was defeated tonight,” Katie smiled at her friend. Sandra’s eyes opened wide in shock as she heard one of the most imaginative sentences to be made in their lifetime. She turned around to see her friend smiling without a hint of a joke in her voice. She didn’t take her words back either... It was as though she’d just started dreaming... without ever falling asleep.