

Chosen 251

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Marie told the girl everything she knew herself about the situation at hand. The rogues had finally attacked the capital and she was yet to be briefed on everything that had happened. While the girl wasn't surprised by what was going on there, she was wary of the casualties that would result from an all-out attack by the rogues. Later on, she told her about the news of the rogue king's apprehension.

Just like Katie had reacted, it was anticlimactic and the two of them couldn't really come to terms with the fact that it had ended the way it had. Katie didn't have reasons for why she felt that way rather than her turning stomach while Sandra took on a more rational approach. "I don't think the world can truly feel safe as long as the rogue king is still alive. If news of his demise got out, the world would be so much happier."

Shocked by the girl's words, Katie began to wonder which approach sounded less like that of a psychopath, not forgetting the fact that she was completely fine with the idea of beheading the wolf. "Well, I don't what is going to happen to him now, but we should be fine with what we know now, I guess," she tried.

"Yeah, I guess you're right," Sandra replied, searching for her friend's gaze. Katie had been spacing out every time the two of them took a moment of silence, "Come on. You know you can tell me anything on your mind without having to worry."

"I know someone else that said something similar once," Katie responded before she could stop herself. The girl quickly looked to see her friend's mouth open in shock from the accusation, "No, I didn't mean it like that."

"Then, by all means, tell me what you did mean, Rogue Killer," Sandra spat.

"Hey, don't say my nickname like that. You make me sound like a heartless maniac," Katie complained only to space out once more... She was quiet for a bit. Sandra gave the girl time to gather her strength, "Well, that name was given to me by him, wasn't it?"

"You mean Kyle? Is he the one on your mind?" Sandra asked, finally noticing a trend. Katie heaved a sigh and nodded in confirmation.

"Yes, he is on my mind. With Jeremiah's help, I can find him. We left the boy to guard the beta alpha back at the cell tower. With the right injections of wolfsbane, he can keep the wolf sedated," Katie said to her.

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"I don't quite understand what you are saying, Katie. Do you think Kyle is close by?" Sandra asked her.

"Yes, I think he is. I don't know how I can tell. Maybe it has something to do with him being connected to me through a link, but I've felt closer to him ever since we got to the reserve. I'd decided I would rescue him the moment we defeated the wolf at the cell tower, but I hadn't expected to find Aunt Marie there. The woman stopped me before I could do anything about it," Katie explained.

"I see... Would you like us to go after him? Just the two of us. It would be like a reunion amongst friends. We would finally knock the sense into that boy and drag him back here with a tonne of wolfsbane in his system. The number of people that want to bash his face in has only been growing in number. It would be a shame to keep them from getting that opportunity. Not to mention you..."

"Have no anger towards him whatsoever..." Katie intervened before the girl could make further assumptions. Sandra took her time to think through what she had just heard.

"What's that supposed to mean?"

"I bit him, Sandra. Since he was the only person I've ever bitten. It makes him my beta alpha by default. His death will be like losing a limb and I bare no ill will towards..."

"I know what happens when a royal bites someone for the first time and, to be honest with you, I don't think Kyle will ever be the same again after something like that. The Kyle that betrayed us is as well as dead," Sandra sighed, falling back into the bed, "And we better rescue this one before you get a stake through the heart."

Excitement coursed through Katie's body when she heard her friend's intentions, "Do you mean it, Sandra?"

"Yeah, I will help you get him from wherever it is they are keeping him. But I'm only doing it for your sake. I would very much like to see the traitor buried deep in the ground-" "But you just said..." "-which I won't be doing when we find him."

Katie pulled her friend into a hug when she was done declaring to help her, "I guess I should be giving this back to..."

"Oh no, keep that as a gift from me. I didn't know why I felt like giving it to you at the time I did, but now I do. You were meant to get your gift today. Consider that your graduation gift... well, before I get you the official one and a more appropriate gift on your accomplishment."

"Thank you very much," Sandra screamed, wrapping her friend in her arms once more.

Katie chuckled, "This day is full of hugs."

"Deal with them," the girl replied, pulling away from her friend, "Although I did wish I could get both gifts as you did. I guess that's something reserved for the truly gifted ones in this life."

"Oh, come on, Sandra. You of all people should know one gift is more than enough to take down a royal if used well," Katie responded.

"I know, I know, but just think about it. The rogue killer and the one she mentored all those years only to have her get both gifts as well. The looks we'd get from the organization. We'd be..."

"You dream quite a bit, don't you, Alastair?" Katie mused, "Yes, you do. Very much indeed. Instead of trying to get something that's heard of to be nearly impossible. Why don't you focus on instead becoming one of the Mighty Warriors at an age younger than anyone ever has?" At this, the royal began to smirk evilly, "Prodigy would be beneath you. You'd be a god amongst your peers."

“There you go again stating the impossible as always,” Sandra slumped over with a look of disappointment, “You forget that I don’t lack your pain tolerance, Katie. No, I think you simply lack pain receptors.”

“What is that supposed to mean? With the right guidance...”

“With the right guidance, I’ll dig myself an early grave. Besides, Katie... You said it yourself. The rogue king was apprehended. The hunters will be making a sweep of the entire world and putting an end to all rogue activities. It might not take a long time, but they won’t need new recruits like us.”

Katie’s mood fell at the girl’s suggestion. She was right about that. With the rogues gone, there was no need for the hunters. Normal werewolves were already well behaved as it was and they lived among the humans with no problem. Those that hated the werewolves were getting less and less from what she’d seen in the capital. It was only a matter of time before the world would head into a peace that had not been seen for centuries.

“I know what you mean. Let’s cross that bridge when we come to it. For now... let’s go and get the pipsqueak in need of lifetime redemption,” Katie said to her. The two girls got up and headed to the door. Opening it, Katie was surprised to see Cole standing at the side of the threshold, leaning against the wall with his head thrown back against the wall.

“So you were indeed planning to sneak away. The sun’s about to rise you know. Would you have been able to be back here before it was time to leave the reserve?” he asked her.

“I was... I mean, I am going to get him out, you know,” the girl steeled her nerves against him.

Cole turned to face her, maintaining his neutral expression, “When you finally find him, what will you do? Bring him back? I know that will only get him killed.”

“I will bring him back and I will order everyone to cut him some slack. If you haven’t forgotten Cole, his death is not good for me,” the girl responded with a hint of forced determination. The royal had more power over her than she realized.

“What makes you think you’ll be able to pull it off? From what I know, the boy won’t be left without protection. Are you in the right condition to fight rogues right now? What happens when you find one of the rogue king’s beta alphas or his generals for that matter?” he asked her.

“The rogues aren’t exactly putting up that much of resistance now that the king has been captured. Cole, I think I’ll be fine. Although, if I do find that the situation is beyond what we can handle, I’ll back out,” she explained.

“We... You sound like you’re going with an army,” the royal chuckled.

“Huh... I wouldn’t call a hunter and an indestructible royal an army, but yeah, it’s quite reassuring to have them around before stumbling into Rogue territory,” the hunter replied.

“I don’t remember agreeing to come with you two,” Cole groaned, “How long does it take you to get tired of running about?”

“You aren’t saying you’re tired now, are you?”

"I said nothing of the sort. Let's get going," Cole put on a brave face, pushing his smile to its limits even though he'd not foreseen the exertion that he was now certain they were about to go through. Unlike his mate, he knew his limits and didn't push them as much as she did. It was something that was unique to her and her alone.

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The trio made their way to the hotel exit, making sure to stay as quiet as they could. The closer they got to the hotel exit, the more she felt something wrong was about to happen. As they neared the gates, Caden and Jason joined them as though they'd known where they were going. The two males did not ask questions. Katie sighed when she saw Lina and Crysta joining them as well. It was almost as though everyone knew where they were going and that there was nothing that could talk her out of it.

Just then, a thought crossed her mind that made her feel more like a fool than she would have liked. Her adoptive mother stood at the gates with her arms crossed across her chest, 'Of course, she could sense it the moment I decided to go after Kyle.'

"I didn't think you had a rebellious side to you, Katie. But then again, there is a first time for everything," the woman said to her, stopping the group in their tracks.

"There is nothing rebellious about it. I just have to get the boy out of there..." Katie paused. Not everyone around knew the reason why she needed to get Kyle away from the rogues.

"Oh, and why is the boy's survival so important to you? And before we go any further, you are talking about Kyle, right?" the woman asked.

"WHAT?" Caden was the first to react to this question. Katie rubbed her temples at the man's reaction. She'd known it wouldn't be easy for them to accept Kyle to be the person she was trying to save, but in Caden's case, she was sure this was a much bigger problem.

"In any case, your uncle went in that direction. I'm guessing he already has him now and bringing him now. That is... if he hasn't killed him already," Katie's adoptive mother spoke up.

"Wait, you sent Uncle Tom after him on his own," Katie asked.

"He's far more capable of handling himself than you are in this state," the woman argued, "Speaking of which, I watched your entire fight with that beta alpha. I was impressed. When did you get faster?"

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"Huh... Oh, I've been training with Mr Silver. I had to get more agile if I didn't want to meet one of his arrows," the girl laughed nervously.

"Katie, if I heard correctly, Mr Tom is going to come back here any second with Kyle or news of Kyle's death?" Sandra asked.

"So that traitor is the reason we'd come to help you after all?" Caden asked in a more composed tone this time.

"Kyle is not dead yet. So I'm guessing he will be here. If at all they are coming alr..." she was stopped in her tracks when the sound of footsteps reached her ears. In the silence, there was only one thing that

assaulted her senses more than the distinct sound of footsteps coming from the outside of the hotel... and it was the rapidly increasing heart rate and murderous intent coming from the beta alpha behind her.

Reaching into her Agility gift as fast as she could, the girl rushed in front of the dashing beta alpha and tripped him before securing his hand behind his back in a restricting lock that had him go still, "Get off me, Katie."

"Caden, do not forget who you're speaking to," Cole intervened. The beta alpha gasped in fear at his alpha's words.

"I'm sorry, Alpha Cole," he apologized, "But you know what he did. Why aren't you as angry as I am right now?"

"Well, if that's what you think about the boy, then why don't you ask yourself what we think about him in the first place?" Cole asked him calmly. The footsteps were getting closer... The tension got higher in the air as the new arrivals got closer. Katie released Caden when she noticed he wasn't seething any longer.

"Is that a welcoming committee I see?" Uncle Tom's voice cut through the silence.

"Mr Thomas, I don't think there would be a welcoming committee for a criminal such as me. It might look like one, but it's only the committee that will see to my execution in the next few seconds," another voice came and rang through the air. The whole world seemed to go silent when the two of them appeared on the other side of the gates walking side by side as though they were friends.

Katie noticed Kyle wasn't as thin as he used to be. His yellow eyes were the wrong colour and she was repulsed upon seeing them. Angry growls filled the air all aimed at the same person. Kyle jerked backwards in fear as he only realized just how many wolves had been present at the gate. "Long time no see, Kyle," Katie spoke up.

The boy scanned through the crowd for the voice and came face to face with the blue-eyed girl that had only greeted him a moment ago. She was, even more, intimidating in person. The bright blue eyes only screamed danger more than she'd been before with dark blue eyes, "I wouldn't say a long time exactly, but... It's good to see you're fine."

"Explain all this," Caden ordered Katie. This was the second time the man was being assertive and for some unknown reason, Katie felt like putting him in his place. She'd never had much trouble with someone below her talking to her that way, but now that Caden was doing it, she didn't like the effect.

"Watch your tone, Caden," Cole intervened once more, sensing his mate's battling emotions. Through the mind link, 'Are you trying to get on her bad side? You know how the werewolf community works and Katie is only new to it?'

'I'm sorry, Alpha Cole. But look at that thing there... How can we let Ashley's murderer just walk in here as if he never did anything wrong in the first place? You know what it is to lose a member of your pack... No, you know what it feels like when a member of your pack is murdered. You felt that pain on that day as much as I did... We both found her body mutilated that day. How can you be so calm after all that?' the man argued with him, turning to her alpha in the process of arguing.

'And I asked that you be patient before making decisions you'd regret. Who do you think was betrayed the most that night? Katie had lived with this boy for much longer than any of us. She trusted him with everything and yet she isn't the one overreacting at the moment,' Cole replied.

"Hey, Kyle, you do know how angry you made people here before you decided to leave us, don't you?" Katie's voice interrupted him.

"Yes, I do... I was asking Mr Thomas to kill me while we were still at the base. That would make this all..."

"Don't make jokes like that, Kyle," Katie's voice cut him off dangerously.

"Understood, Alpha Katie," the boy responded immediately, bowing slightly in submission.

"Huh," went Tom, "And here I thought you were exaggerating. So it is true then, isn't it Katie? He told me what happened. That's the only reason I didn't kill him."

Katie sighed at the question, "Fix your eyes already, Kyle," the girl said to him.

"Huh, how's that supposed to work? It was you that turned them the colour that they are now. How am I supposed to..." the boy stopped when everyone's expression turned from angry to shock within seconds, "What... Is there something behind me?"

"Katie, why are his eyes red?" Jason was the first to find his voice.

"Surprise... I would have wanted to kill Kyle as well, but something happened during the battle in Brigadia. When I was trying to keep Kyle from the rogues, he was about to fall off my back. The boy was unconscious at the time. To keep him from falling into their clutches, I caught him... with my teeth," the girl confessed.

"And from that moment, he was cursed to serve you," Lina concluded. The girl fearlessly walked forward till she was right in front of him, "He's been bulking up as well. How did you do the thing with his eyes?"

"I've been using him as a spy within the rogues. I ordered him to have his eyes change back to yellow. At the moment, I didn't know it was a possibility, but my wolf surely seemed to know more about this than I did," Katie shrugged.

"Amazing..." Lina replied, before letting her shoulders droop, "Although, how are we going to make him pay for his crimes when he's tied to you?"

"I don't mind what you do with him. As long as he stays alive anyway, there is nothing that happens to me. To be honest, I would have liked to punish him as well, but there is no hatred in my heart left. I only see someone who will do anything for me. I can't do anything against him and the same goes for him," Katie sadly declared, turning around, "Caden, you're in charge of whatever happens to him."

"Umm, Katie..."

"You're ordered to stay alive, Kyle. Is that understood?" to Kyle, she said in a harsh tone.

"Yes, Alpha Katie. U-understood," he responded with all his confidence drained from him. Sandra could only snicker at the outcome of this meeting.

'I hadn't expected an outcome as interesting as this one. Kyle gets to be tortured by everyone that holds a grudge against him with only one condition. The boy is to stay alive by all means. There is nothing off the table as long as it won't kill him. No doubt the order for him to stay alive is what will let him fight back when something that could kill him is involved... I wonder what I will do. Considering Katie lost all her anger towards him... Perhaps, I should embody her anger for the both of us...'

'Sandra, honey... Your thoughts are scary sometimes...' Jason's voice interfered with her scheming.

'I didn't tell you to take a look,' she chuckled.

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Caden walked up to the boy, still keeping the guise that there was nothing he was going to do, right before delivering a full-force uppercut that threw the boy outside through the gate. Kyle groaned in pain and rubbed his jaw. To his amazement, he was already healing. His jaw hurt a lot and he was sure it had been broken, but the healing had already kicked in. He couldn't tell if this was a good or bad thing considering the fact that the things that could kill him with this much healing had just reduced in number.

"Follow me... I will deal with your punishment as my Luna has ordered," Caden said to him.

"Wait... Luna?" the boy asked, surprised. He had been focused on those around that wanted to kill him that he hadn't taken the time to take in his alpha's appearance. Now that he thought back, his mind could perfectly picture the mark on her shoulder. He'd failed to acknowledge it in the heat of the moment, but his mind was now going through the different implications of her mark, "You don't mean..."

"I see you don't know a lot of things... The rogues you were so intent on leaving with, will be no more. The war is over, Kyle. If I were you, I would embrace your new life as her highness's beta alpha. You're in for a world of pain, but then again, I'm sure the two of you knew that before deciding you were coming back to live among us," Caden said to him.

"Caden, don't overdo it, okay? King Sirius might want to do something to him. He better get back to Sirius in the right condition," Cole waved his beta alpha off. Caden stared at the wolf at his feet and could only feel cheated for not having the chance to see him breathe his last. It was nagging although, with more thought on the matter, he found that he had all the time in the world to remind the boy of the crime he committed.

There was nothing he could think of that would satisfy him concerning Ashley's loss and he had no idea if torturing the boy would help him come to peace with it either. After all, "Even if I drop you in all the hell on earth, it stays the same... You get to live while Ashley never had that chance. You don't deserve what you've been given."

Kyle hadn't been forced to kill many in his lifetime, but that statement affected him more than he thought it should have. The boy sighed, "You make it sound like I want to be alive." Watching the shocked expression grow on Caden's face, he smirked, "Yeah, that's right. What's the point? If you'd ask me, I'm in the perfect hell. I would rather be dead, but I'm alive. Ashley would rather be alive, but she's dead. It's the perfect form of unfairness this world has to offer. Do what you will with me. I honestly don't care the slightest bit."

“In that case, follow me to my room. You’ll be my personal slave until we get to Sirius. Any funny business and you will know the true definition of pain... Though if I do that, Cole might get mad at me for bringing you to Sirius in the worst possible shape,” Caden shrugged, gesturing for the young alpha to follow him.

Kyle got up to his feet and dusted himself off. Moving his mouth at odd angles as though something was stuck in his teeth, he found that his jaw was completely healed and the pain had completely subsided. He’d started to notice his increased healing and it only worried him. “So you’re Kyle... The boy that has caused Katie so much pain. It’s sad to see you in a situation where Katie can’t hurt you. You’re probably planning to turn your back on her once you get the chance,” Lina said to Kyle while he passed her at the gate.

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“Hmm, there is a part of me that would have wanted to do that, but as time has passed, I’ve resigned to my new life. Beta alphas don’t have much choice when it comes to obeying their masters. We cannot do anything to hurt them. It would have been possible for me to betray her if the rogue king had bitten me and switched my allegiance, but he didn’t figure it out in time. And now that Katie has been marked by Cole, that wouldn’t work even if he tried,” Kyle said to the princess, standing beside her at the gate, far too close for comfort.

“Hey, Kyle... don’t waste my time. Make sure you’re right behind me,” Caden’s voice came from the hall.

Kyle felt his gut wrench as the orders took root. Just giving command over to Caden was enough to have him following his every word like he was some loyal pet. The boy rushed past Lina in a hurry to catch up to the beta alpha. The boy had put thought into his situation. Lina could tell he had his hands tied and there was really nothing he could do about it. ‘So, then... Have you decided to endure what this life is about to throw at you? It won’t be easy,’ she thought to herself.

“I see he’s ready. I wonder what this endeavour will breed for that boy,” the hunter beside Lina spoke more to herself.

“I don’t really know if this endeavour will do anything for him. If he can learn to embrace life again, then maybe something can come of this. I know for a fact that the boy wants to die,” Tom answered, stunning those that were listening.

“What makes you think such a thing?” Jason asked him before anyone else could.

“Well, when I was bringing him here, he hinted on it... twice. The first time, he almost tricked me into killing him. Obviously, the rules that bind the beta alphas didn’t give him many options. He couldn’t attack me because I matter to Katie, so he hoped I would kill him once I saw him. Unfortunately, I quickly realised that he was why Katie wanted to go out there. I know she wouldn’t do that just for the sake of killing him. The second time he hinted at it was when the rogues’ base exploded. We’d already escaped, but he wished he’d still been inside at the time it did,” Tom explained.

“What’s making him that suicidal?” Marie asked.

“Well, I don’t see why he wouldn’t be suicidal?” Sandra intervened, “Everything he worked for and believed he was going to have once he was done with his mission crashed and burned right in front of

him. There is nothing more for him to live for. Moving over to our side after everything he did just doesn't seem like an option to him."

"Aren't you always analysing the situation? What would Katie do without you?" Marie celebrated.

"Katie is smart in her own right. She doesn't even struggle to keep up in classes. She's always ahead of..."

"Oh, you forget Sandra. Katie gave up a lot to get that good. You lived your childhood a little more than she did. Your parents, being civilians knew how to let a child have fun. At the same time, you made your own research and learned everything that you know with next to no help at all. Katie might be better than you in the classroom, but she had tutors for that sort of thing," Marie stopped the girl before she could continue putting herself down.

Sandra, in a lower tone, "It sounds like... you're trying to say Katie is dumb."

"What... No, now that's an extreme. I didn't say she was dumb. She does value her instincts over logic though, so in the end, you'll find her leaping first into an illusion of fire before proving if it's real or not," the woman sighed. Sirens began to ring in the far distance getting their attention.

"Get the severely injured humans moving. It's about time they were taken to an adequate emergency room and treated appropriately," Tom commanded them before turning to his wife, "We'll have to report everything that has happened here to the Council."

"Yeah, I know... I guess it's not over yet..." the woman said in a worried voice.

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It was not long before the ambulances arrived, taking the most injured first. Trevor helped the junior hunters take them out and worked on waking the other students. It was agreed that the humans that had slept through the entire ordeal were to be informed in the calmest manner possible. Since most of them didn't need to be bothered by the details, none of them was to know the full extent of the injuries that were incurred that night.

The werewolves were mostly sleepy by the time they had to get into the school bus. They got to packing their things and placing them on the bus. The teachers, who were in shock after hearing what happened from the hunters offered to help Trevor get the students ready. They handled the roll call and organization of the students as efficiently as possible while the hunters and werewolves were given all the time to get ready.

Most of them were still injured from the entire ordeal and needed more time to get ready.

"Katie, we have to get going," Cole called the girl taking her sweet time in the bathroom. When no sound came through, the man walked up to the door and opened it without prior warning. Freezing at the doorway, he found his mate staring into the bathroom mirror. Her eyes had gone completely dark blue. There wasn't a hint of werewolf within them.

"Katie..."

The girl turned to face Cole, pulling out of her thoughts, “Yes, Cole... I heard you. WAIT, why did you come in here without knocking? What if...”

“It’s not like there is anything I haven’t seen before. Although I am surprised to see your eyes dark blue again,” the alpha said, pulling her attention away from the question she’d asked him.

“Oh, that... It happens... Every time that my wolf isn’t with me,” she explained, a feeling of loneliness seeping into her voice.

Cole hadn’t heard the phrase before. It was the first time he was hearing of it. Wolves didn’t leave their other half. They were glued to them. Although, now that he looked at his mate, he didn’t even get the scent of her wolf from her. The sweet alluring scent that drew them closer had decreased a lot that he could barely recognize it. What did show that she was still his mate though was the mark on her neck, “I don’t quite understand what you mean.”

“I had a feeling you would say something like that. I’ve never even seen it happen to a wolf before, so why would it be normal at all?” she replied, “There are times when my wolf vanishes completely from my mind. I don’t know why that happens, but she’s usually back within seconds. The first time I noticed it, I only blinked and she was back. But it was soon pretty obvious that my wolf would leave me from time to time. Soon I noticed that just telling her to retreat to the back of her mind and leave everything to me was enough to turn my eyes dim. When that happens though, I lose all the energy I get from her. It feels the same as it did before my eighteenth birthday,” the girl confirmed.

“What are the other times when she disappears?” Cole asked her.

“Well, the other times that happens is when she goes to sleep and leaves me awake. None of us have got any sleep tonight, so I asked that she went to sleep. If we don’t get a chance to sleep later, I might just find myself sleeping while she takes control of my body,” she responded.

A memory flashed through Cole’s mind of the time her wolf had taken control of her body just for the sake of having him pull out of a feral state that would have gotten Silver killed. “Well, in that case, we better get ourselves on the bus fast enough.”

“Yeah, I guess you’re right about that,” the girl responded.

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The two of them were gone without another word, taking their belongings out of the door and bidding the hotel farewell. Just as she was about to board the school bus, she heard someone call out to her. “Katie, wait up...” the girl turned around in time to see someone running up to her. The woman was winded and didn’t look too good. Alice was panting by the time she got to Katie, “Hey, you didn’t think you’d leave without saying goodbye... did you?”

“Well, I was hoping not many would see me like this, but no... That was thoughtless of me,” Katie apologized.

Alice took the time to look the girl in the eye. Her eyes had lost their werewolf glow and she looked more like a lethal hunter that would bring a rogue down just from the fierceness of her gaze, “Oh my... You look better with the glow to your eyes.”

“Yeah, I’m starting to think so as well. Although this is more intimidating, don’t you think?” Katie said, putting on the most intimidating face she could manage at the moment.

Alice started laughing at the girl’s acting while she caught her breath, “Well, you aren’t the only one that’s been having trouble with themselves. After a night of running around trying to protect your lot, I’m yet to regain my strength. It’s like I don’t even have my gift anymore.”

“I have heard of something like that. When a hunter gets so tired that they feel the blessing has been completely drained from them.

“Yeah, it has happened to me a few times. Most of us just pass out when we reach that point so we never get to experience what happens to us,” she explained, “Anyway, Morgan and Gallant got bored and decided to survey the forest for... well, they were salvaging for arrows that could still be used. Gallant was impressed by your skill with a bow and got all your red arrows back. Although he said four were missing,” she explained.

“Oh yeah... there are three that I shot far off at the beach. I’m not sure if I hit something though,” Katie laughed nervously.

“You did hit something alright. You were the reason we got out of that fight unscathed,” the hunter praised, before removing the quiver at her back, “Here you go. We replaced your missing arrows with one of my own. It’s for all your help with protecting the kids.”

“No, honestly, you didn’t have to do all this, Aunt Alice. I was in charge of protecting this lot so you didn’t have to go through all the trouble really,” Katie tried.

“Huh... did you just call me ‘Aunt’?” the woman asked.

Katie paused her nervous acting, “Oh, I noticed how close you are with her... Aunt Marie. The two of you were like sisters when I saw you earlier. It only felt right, you know,” she responded.

Alice was quiet for a bit before smiling, “Right... I’m still coming to terms with those two. A werewolf with this much power from the gods... You’re bound to have plenty of anomalies. It’s like you were meant to be the perfect weapon against the rogue king.”

“Oh, I wouldn’t say that when the man is now in captivity. Besides, without Cole’s help, I don’t think I would have been able to put that beta alpha down,” Katie responded, “The rogue king is said to be on an entirely different level.”

“Yeah... Well, I wish you the best, Katie. Do not forget to invite me to your wedding,” the woman said before bounding off, leaving Katie completely flushed... ‘W-wedding...’

‘Don’t you want one?’ Cole’s voice rushed into her mind as though he’d been paying attention to their entire conversation.

‘Hey, have you been...’

“No, the bus is ready to go, Katie. We’ve been waiting for you,” Cole’s voice came from the door. She turned to the man and saw his outstretched hand inviting her into the vehicle. Taking his hand, she allowed him to lead her into the car and to their seat close to the back.

The bus door closed and the car began moving. Almost as though the motion was meant to rock her to sleep, the girl began to get sleepy, "Don't waste a single second of it," Cole pulled her against him so she slept comfortably beside him. The girl fell asleep faster than he thought possible. Watching her sleep, he couldn't help but sense the constant uneasiness that was going on within her. It was like the news of the rogue king's apprehension had only kept her on edge than relax her.

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Tom and Marie waited at the hotel and watched the girl go while they waited for the Hunter's Agency to send more vehicles that they were meant to transport their captured rogue in. The beta alpha had already consumed most of their wolfsbane with his insane healing rate. They would have to resort to cutting up his tendons using poisoned blades to keep them from healing. After all, they were harder to heal compared to his paralyzed muscles.

"Did you see her eyes?" Tom asked.

"Yes, I did. It seems she has more anomalies than any wolf to ever be born," Marie responded.

The man beside her turned to see an armoured vehicle appearing, its engine roaring loud enough to wake the sleeping rogue, "So you brought this much security for me.. I'm honoured." He said in a bored tone.

"You don't sound that honoured," Marie said to him.

"I don't really care about anything presently. You can carry on as you wish," the man responded, attempting to go to sleep. From the passenger seat of the armoured truck, a man dressed in pink leapt out of the truck only to freeze at the angry sight of Marie Chase.

"Oh hey... Marie. What's up?"

"You let them come this far from Sirius without protection?" the woman yelled at him.

"No... I mean... Come on... You know how I hate bugs. Besides, she needed a life lesson to teach her a bit of archery. From what I've heard, I believe I've done a good job of training..." the man was stopped when the woman before her flipped him, slamming him onto his back violently.

"This has nothing to do with training. Students were nearly killed in what was meant to be a class trip. What do you have to say about that?" Marie replied.

"Katie was ready. She wouldn't have let that happen," he said under the pressure of her foot, "I'm sorry, fourth pillar, Marie Chase." Marie hadn't heard anyone call her that in a long time and was shaken by it, "You trained her well. She's well on her way to becoming like him. Thorrin..."

The woman let go of the man allowing him to stand once more, "I just wonder if she'll ever make it now that the man has been captured."

"Well, with the Chase family surrounding him, I don't think he'll go anywhere..." Chase mentioned to her, "Hey Tom, will you be chasing after your wife now that you're both out of retirement."

"I don't need some fancy title to prove my worth as a hunter... I know my capabilities," Tom replied, sighing at the man's antics.

“Oh, come on, you can’t say you’re not in the least bit jealous. You’re currently in the presence of two of the most powerful hunters in the world. It must make you at least shiver with inferiority,” the man said in a mischievous yet cheerful voice.

“Your level of creepy has only skyrocketed, Silver,” Tom replied, “Now come help me get this delinquent loaded up already...” The ease with which the man dismissed his taunting had Silver sighing heavily with boredom, “Coming... king of boredom...” he cursed, “You’re no fun...”

255 Chapter Two Hundred Fifty Five

Lionel Haelstrom could barely contain himself as the car sped across the asphalt towards the capital of Lycaon. This was the third group heading there to defend the king. This time he’d chosen to go with them for he feared his father was in grave danger. Against his sister’s complaints to keep him in the pack, he left in a hurry.

His beta, seeing that the man could barely contain himself, had chosen to take on the role of driving. “Hey, Lionel, we should prepare an excuse to present to the alpha for disobeying his orders,” the beta tried.

Lionel barely heard his beta’s words. His mind wouldn’t stop running the different possibilities that could be taking place in the capital. It was only when the thick scent of blood hit his nose that he realized there was something wrong with what had happened. Looking forward, he noticed they’d just about reached the capital, “The smell of death is thick in the air,” his beta said.

“Add the smell of rogues to that assumption,” Lionel replied, getting even more unsettled in his seat. This was only getting worse than he had worried about. The car got ever closer to the palace and his fear for what awaited him only got worse the more he thought of it.

Along the streets, they noticed vehicles moving about on clean-up duty. Arrows were lodged all over the place. Some of them had missed their targets while others sticking out of werewolf corpses. The smell was pungent and the wolves wanted nothing but to get away from the source of it. “What happened here?” his beta asked.

The car continued on through the city passing similar sights of the carnage that had taken place. They parked outside as there seemed to be more than enough cars that had come to see the king and prepare for the attack. From what the wolves could tell, the fight was all over. Breaking out of his daze, Lionel pushed himself forward to the palace, passing the open gates. What awaited him on the inside forced him to halt even more. Arranged in many lanes as far as his eyes could see were caskets of different designs.

At first, he didn’t want to believe what he was seeing, but soon enough, he was sure of what was before him. The caskets contained the fallen on the side of the hunters and werewolves that had come to help out. Each hunter that intended to pass by them spared a second to bow in silence to those that had fallen in the battle before proceeding on their way. A few of the hunters stayed by the caskets of those they knew and they were left to grieve for as long as they needed.

Mustering his courage, Lionel moved from one casket to the other, noting the names that were written on each. His mind searched for a single name... He had to make sure his father had made it out of the battle alive. He didn’t know what he would do otherwise. After going through them for what felt like an

eternity, he reached the last of them and confirmed that his father's casket was not among them. "Let us enter the castle. Perhaps that way, we shall..."

"Lionel, is that you?" a familiar voice reached his ears. The werewolf turned to see the face that had now been etched into his memory. One of the first faces his eyes had been graced to see the moment he was born. His father stood at the far end of the group of caskets with his father in a cast. His injuries were clear, but the red-eyed man was clearly alive and that's all that mattered to Lionel. The man rushed up to his father and engulfed him in a hug, glad he still got to keep his father.

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Skipping over the greetings, Lionel asked the king, "What on earth happened here?"

"It was a war, Lionel. What else do you think happened? Thousands upon thousands of rogues attacked us. I never even thought the rogues could even make that big of a number," the alpha replied, "It's good to see you are well, Lionel. I thought I was clear when..."

"Let's skip the scolding, father. I tried simply sending more warriors to ensure your safety, but I couldn't relax knowing you could be in danger," Lionel replied, "And it seems I was right. What happened to you?"

"I'm fine, Lionel. Just got beaten up by one of the rogue king's generals during the battle. I had no idea those monsters were packing much strength," the man said, wincing at the memory of what had happened to him.

"If you had trouble with another alpha, I'm now worried," Lionel exclaimed, taking another look at the cast his father was wearing on his left arm.

"It'll heal, Lionel. Don't worry about..."

"Alpha Lionel, I didn't think I would see you here," a voice interrupted them. Lionel turned to face a yellow-eyed werewolf approaching him. The man had once been a proud delta but had been demoted by the prince of Sirius in a fit of provoked anger.

"It's good to see you made it out of this ordeal unscathed as well, Victor," Lionel replied, noticing the wolf barely had a scratch on him.

"Well, it wasn't easy. I can tell you that much. Thankfully, I never got to meet a general like our alpha. I know I would have been killed for sure. Have you paid your respects to his majesty?" the man said to him.

"What do you mean?"

"Oh, you haven't heard..."

"Victor, watch your tongue," Alpha Maelstrom thundered. In a lower tone, "If someone hears you saying such things with a tone that's almost happy, you might just join the fallen."

"Apologies, alpha... I do advise your heir to pay his respects though. It would allow us all to accept what's happening much faster," the man returned with a slight bow.

Lionel walked past the man and went straight into the castle, completely oblivious to the calls of those that watched him go. His mind couldn't believe what he was hearing. The possibility of the hunters winning the battle would only mean they were able to save the king's life. Why then would the king be dead?

The man reached the doors that led into the king's chambers only moments later and found a crowd standing by the door in silence. A few were let in every few minutes for a reason Lionel had still refused to believe. He believed there was something else they could have been accessing the room for. However, the more he noticed their solemn expressions, the more he came to the brink of acceptance. His pack made it to him and waited with him as their turn to enter finally came. Inside the room, was a neatly designed casket, open at the head only to allow all that entered to see the person it contained.

Lionel froze at the sight of the king before him. As he looked down on the king's corpse, the man's eyes closed and finally peaceful, Lionel didn't notice the slight smile that graced his face.

The widow seated at the other side of the casket smiled along with him. He'd been one of the few to visit the king once before. A memory that he'd buried a long time ago resurfaced, reminding him of the pain the king had been in when he'd been alive. His failing body was only causing him more pain. Lionel had never known how the man had survived this long, but now that he saw him rest peacefully, he couldn't hold back the smile that graced his face.

"How was he in his final moments?" he asked the widow.

"Well, he was braver than I remember him. He didn't fear death one bit and once he was gone, the man that had taken his life was more terrified than the one he had killed," the woman replied. Lionel wasn't so sure what the woman meant, but he was comfortable with his ignorance. For now, he would grieve the king's demise.

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"Hey, Katie... wake up. We've arrived," a voice urged the sleeping girl to wake up from her sleep. Cole watched the girl at his side try to rub the sleep from her eyes. When her eyes did open, the bright blue light of her werewolf's returned before dimming to a normal bright blue.

"Oh, hey Cole, where are we?" the girl asked him.

"Where else? We're at the palace," the royal responded.

"That doesn't make sense... Did they bring all the students to the palace with us," she asked him.

"No, it's more like I carried you into the car that brought us to the palace," Cole responded, chuckling at the girl's sleepy behaviour, "I don't think I've ever seen you this tired in your entire life. It's a new look on you."

"Oh, shut up, Cole. And yes, I am tired," Katie responded, pinching the bridge of her nose as she sat up. The car they sat in had gone silent and she was slowly becoming aware of her surroundings, "Cole, let's open our mind link to the two packs again. There is no reason to hide what happened anymore now that the rogues know about it."

“Yeah, I was going to ask you that when you got up, but now that you’ve said it, I’m worried,” Cole responded.

The girl smirked... Her whims were starting to have an impact on Cole as well. It was a privilege she enjoyed very much as someone that was trained by the Chase hunters, “Well, maybe we’ll find out something by doing that.”

When Cole did not reply, she looked to her side and noticed he’d gone completely silent and spaced out, “Cole, are you okay?”

“I’m not so sure. At this distance, I shouldn’t be able to sense something as far as Lycaon... But...” he paused and looked down in thought, “No, maybe it’s nothing.”

“Well, if you were trained by my parents, they would tell you to investigate that feeling because it might be something indeed,” Katie responded. As soon as the words sank into the alpha, he was out of the car and rushing up the stairs of the palace. Katie sighed and took it upon herself to get their luggage back to their room, “I better tell him that I’ve been meaning to have us go to Lycaon as soon as we got here... I have a bad feeling of my own,” she said to herself as she got out of the car and watched him disappear from sight.

“Do you need help with your bags?” someone asked her and she nodded, accepting the help as she was tired.

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Cole rushed through the palace in search of the king’s office. He had to ask something that was on his mind and wouldn’t let him settle. Reaching the door, he rang the bell that had been placed at the door, waiting impatiently at the entrance for the door to open. His impatience grew even thinner by the moment.

The king’s voice came through the small speaker at the side of the door along with a click from the door. The door swung open before Cole could push it open to reveal Queen Martha holding it open for him to enter. The woman looked around him for a moment, “You came alone, didn’t you?”

“Yes, I did. Were you expecting someone else to show up?” he asked.

The woman sighed, “Yeah, I was expecting you to come here with a few more, but I guess you’re the most important at the moment. Although it would be good if you had come with Katie.”

Cole walked past the queen and greeted the two rulers before taking a seat in front of the king’s table. “How was your trip, Cole?”

“Well, besides the rogues that tried to kill us, there was nothing out of the ordinary,” Cole said right before remembering the ability his mate had uncovered the day before.

The king was silent for a bit taking in the information he was given. He asked Cole to give a detailed explanation of what happened and the alpha gave a detailed explanation of what happened while they were at the reserve. The king listened silently as Cole narrated his version of the events that occurred at the reserve, “To be honest, I’m somewhat disappointed. Katie should have snuffed them out while she

had the chance during the day and brought them all down before they had a chance to endanger the entire pack.”

“Honey, would you wait for her to get here before you have to yell about her methods?” the queen tried to calm her mate.

“You’re right. I’ll...” the man stopped speaking when the door opened to reveal the hunter they were looking for, “Talk of the devil. Katie, there is a lot we have to discuss.”

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“And what might that be?” Katie asked her father. She noticed the angry expression on his face although she found that she couldn’t react to it. Cole noticed her mind was swarmed with thoughts that were completely unrelated to the subject. While he couldn’t figure them out, he could tell they had nothing to deal with what the king was about to say.

“Why didn’t you kill the rogues when they were still gathering? Before they had a chance to completely overwhelm the pack. From what I’ve heard, the humans weren’t even attacked. You were meant to...”

“I took care of it in the most efficient way I could come up with and no one was killed. If I had rushed into the situation, I would have gotten myself worn out like the last time and risked being killed. So I played my cards the best way I could think of,” Katie responded, somewhat irritated. Her eyes darted to Cole and she moved to approach him, but the king was not done.

“All you did was stand at the top of the hotel while carnage took place in the forest. What’s that if not saving your own skin? And what’s this I hear about you bringing the traitor straight back to the capital?” the king bellowed.

“I don’t have time for this, Father,” Katie raised her voice for the first time. Looking slightly winded by the effort, the girl turned to Cole and grabbed, “Now, come Cole, you need to get ready.”

“Cole was confused by the girl’s words, but couldn’t deny the level of urgency in her voice,” he got up to follow her, only to find that the king stood by the door, keeping out of her line of sight.

“Where is it that you’re going?” the king asked, keeping his voice down with the last of his self-control.

“I’m going to the capital of Lycaon,” Katie responded, “I know you said I had to stay here for about three months, but...”

“Did anyone tell... Wait, you’re only feeling like going to Lycaon or has...” the king felt as though the words he kept trying to dodge would only be needles to the two in front of him. From the look of surprise on her face, he could tell she was surprised. The man chuckled, “Your intuition is sharper than anything I’ve ever witnessed.” The king stepped aside without further argument. His anger seemed to have quelled for reasons Cole wanted to know.

“That’s actually why I came here. I wanted to ask you something,” Cole said to the king, “I need to ask you something concerning... my father. I opened my mind link earlier and couldn’t feel him. I know we are far from Sirius, but it’s too quiet. I can’t tell if he’s even there. It’s like he broke away from the pack and I know that’s not true.”

“Cole, have you already forgotten what Jackeline told you?” Katie asked the alpha... It was only then that the alpha remembered the conversation that the two of them had heard with the hunter on the phone. It was almost like he was hearing this for the first time or that his mind hadn’t interpreted anything a moment earlier.

‘Wait, Katie wants to go to Lycaon... why would she...’

“Cole...” Katie’s voice rang in the background as the royal tried to find his bearings. He hadn’t felt his father’s absence yet and when he’d been told that the man was dead. He had nothing primal to force him to take in the truth of the statement.

His mind rushed off in thoughts of the past and many irrelevant details that only worked to slow him down, “Cole...” he heard her again, but this time her voice was clearer. Her scent brought him back to reality. The royal hugged his mate tight as though she was all his sanity depended on and at that moment, let his tears flow. His father was gone... and he wasn’t coming back.

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Lina got out of the car and pulled her phone from her pocket. Before she could head up to the palace, she noticed numerous missed calls on her phone. Someone had been calling her and she’d barely noticed. Unlocking the phone, she found that the calls had been from none other than her best friend, Honour. She dialled the number again and waited for her to answer.

The ringing sound ended almost instantly and the sound from the other side was almost enough to shatter her eardrums, “LINA, you dunce... I’ve been trying to call you so many times. What are you doing? Where are you? You’re supposed to answer when a friend calls you in her hour of need,” the girl yelled from the other side of the phone.

“Someone’s energetic after a night of no sleep,” Crysta’s voice reached her as she walked up to the royal, “Aren’t you going to help unpack the car?”

“No, that’s usually done for me-” she said, covering the mouthpiece before returning her attention to her friend in distress, “Hey, Honour, what are you trying to say? I haven’t heard you speak this energetically since the first time someone tried to put alcohol in your hibiscus tea.”

The other side of the phone went silent for a while, “I wonder why you have that memory in your head. You know how serious I am about my herbal tea. Besides, I wouldn’t consider one of the sweetest types of tea herbal. However, that was criminal... Hey, stop distracting... or continue distracting me... Whatever works for you. Lina, help me. I’m nervous. Would you come to our home? I actually haven’t gone home yet. I’m at the flower shop. I haven’t been able to get the guts to go home yet,” the girl rambled on through the phone.

“Hey, slow down a moment there. What’s keeping you from going home?” Katie asked the girl.

“Well, it’s easy. I’m afraid of a confrontation with my grandmother. You know I can’t go back in there without me thinking about what happened back at the reserve. Would you come with me? Maybe with you by my side, I will be able to take in whatever she has to tell me,” the girl begged.

“You know I wouldn’t turn you down. Let me get a change of clothes and meet you at the shop. Does that work for you?” Lina asked the girl.

“Yes, it does. Lina, thank you very much. I appreciate it,” Honour said through the phone. Lina smiled at the reply before the phone went silent.

“That’s not a smile I see every day,” a feminine voice said from the stairs. Crysta came bounding down the stairs, “Is she alright?”

“For now,” Lina replied, “I just have to make sure she stays that way.”

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Katie got her mate to their room and started packing clothes for the both of them. Her body moved on its own, going through their closet and picking out what she thought would be the best fit for him. Her mind was in constant search of his, sending constant reminders that she was around him. The royal was doing his best to stay in his best condition, but he wouldn’t bring himself to.

“Katie, what’s driving you?” he asked her at one point.

The girl had kept quiet for a while thinking through her answer, “You don’t want to know that answer, Cole,” she replied when she found no meaningful answer behind what drove. Not meaningful enough in his state anyway.

“The Lycaon empire doesn’t need a ruler who’s not yet ready to rule them, Katie,” Cole said to her.

“Cole, you might not be ready to rule Lycaon, but no one has asked you to get ready. And in the meantime, I know you can run that empire. I’ve seen you do it,” Katie said from within the closet. She had picked out the necessities and was now working on carefully packing the duffel bag they were to use in the meantime.

Cole had gone silent after her remark and she searched for his presence through the mind link, keeping note of his state at every second, “I thought I was sure to hide my work from you.”

“You didn’t have to, Cole. I wondered how one could make so much time for me. Why one would when they were the prince of an entire empire? That’s when I realized it. Every time I would set my mind to doing something, yours would go to work shortly after. It was either when I was training or handling something without you. One day I found documents at your desk. You’ve been helping your father run the empire this entire time and I’ve been watching you do it.”

“Why didn’t you say anything?” Cole asked the girl.

“I meant to say something, but the rogues in the reserve got in my way. I couldn’t tell you then. I didn’t get the chance,” the girl replied, zipping the duffel. She walked out of the closet and placed the bag on their bed and took a seat next to him.

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Cole his hand covering his face to hide his expression, but his mate could feel his turmoil. All of it, “You don’t have to hide it from me, Cole.”

“We are about to go out, Katie. I have to get myself ready to face the world,” he tried to steel himself.

“No, Cole... You don’t have to. You stink from the trip,” the girl responded.

“What did you say?” Cole chuckled.

“Oh, I’m not taking it back. Now get up and shower...” the girl began poking and edging him closer to the bathroom. Just when he was about to reach it, she stopped pushing him, “Until your done washing off, you’re allowed to be vulnerable.”

Cole went quiet and pulled Katie into a hug once more. The hunter was shocked by the sudden movement, but warmed into his hug only a moment later, “I will be with you the whole way, Cole. While I might not know what you’re going through and have never experienced it, I will be there for you if you need me. Through all of it.”

“Thank you, Katie.”

.....

Lionel walked through the castle touring the different activities that were going on. As it so happened, the beta alphas were found among the fallen. It was no doubt the two creatures had died the moment their alpha’s life had been snuffed out. Their families sobbed at their caskets. The hunters were asked to bring the caskets of the beta alphas to the king’s chambers so that they might side with him even in death.

Beta alphas, the two werewolves that were sworn to serve the royals till their death. It didn’t matter if it was a request from their alpha, it was to be executed no matter the circumstances. Lionel moved on to the dungeons where some of his pack mates had been stationed. Within the concrete hallways, he found numerous cells holding criminals that were of no significance to him. However, the ones that he had come to see caught his attention beyond anything he’d seen before.

The first ones were alphas, each of them bound in thick chains and their mouths gagged to prevent speech. Each of the alphas differed from the other, “These must be the ones working under him.”

“No, that man and child are just some of his generals. I heard that another one... a woman managed to get away while another was killed by a hunter called Jackeline. They spoke of another general that was killed in the Sirius kingdom, but those are only rumours. They are very dangerous,” one of the guards told him.

The alpha squinted as he noticed one of the generals was more chain than muscle, “The red eyes of the small being locked with his and flashed a frightening shade of red, “Is that a child?”

“Yes, sir... They say he’s the one who knocked out most of the hunters,” the guard explained with a shudder.

Lionel continued on his way and came face to face with the most important cell since he’d come. Bound in chains and raised from the ground were two beings that radiated power on levels unimaginable to the alpha. The first one to lift his head towards him was who he assumed to be a beta alpha. Lionel felt like the gaze alone would pin him to the ground and suck the life out of him. The man, noticing his situation, shrugged and looked away from him.

“That’s been the same reaction for everyone that’s come here. The beta alpha looks at you first and if you don’t flinch at his gaze, the rogue king does it... No one has survived that one... It’s like a game to

the two of them... They've completely resigned to doing nothing... Their king seems to have given up everything."

"Why is that?" Lionel asked. The guard that had been narrating turned to look at him.

"Oh, you haven't heard."

"Heard what?" Lionel asked him, turning to face him, but staying painfully aware of the beings in the cell before him. Even with how chained they were, the man couldn't help but feel uneasy in their presence. It was as though they could break free of their bonds easily.

"Well, rumour has it that the Moon Goddess' chosen marked each other. When the rogue king got to learn of that development, he surrendered without further resistance," the man said to him.

"What... Just like that?" the alpha asked.

"Yes, just like that," the man responded, "The man's years of tyranny are over by something as simple as that. Talk about divine intervention."

Lionel couldn't believe what he was hearing and another part of him only pieced together the fact that Katie had been united with Cole at last in ways words could no longer describe. "So the power of the royals has been stripped away from them just like that." 'It's ironic that they did it themselves...'

.....

Thorrin sat in the great conference hall within the Lycaon palace waiting on the hunters that he had called to attend a meeting he had called. Something bothered his brain worse than he could describe. The sun had already set and the night was approaching fast. Most of the hunters had taken a rest during the day. He, on the other hand, hadn't been able to rest with the different waves he was receiving.

"It must be troublesome to be a Chase hunter," Micah said, walking into the conference room as the first arrival. Behind him, Evelyn made her arrival. The two of them had dark lines under their eyes and they yawned with tiredness etching its way all over their bodies.

"I agree..." Thorrin replied, "Thankfully, I believe the rest of the hunters have had all the rest they would need to take care of anything should the occasion arise."

"I believe so as well..." Evelyn was interrupted by the opening doors as many hunters began to file into the room, taking random seats until they were all seated. Before Thorrin could talk, servants came in with refreshments and began to pour drinks for all of them. The hunters, most of who had just woken up, began to sip the delightful tea.

Thorrin, on the other hand, eyed the tea. It did not attract him as his nerves were more focused on what he was supposed to say. The scent coming from it, however, was somewhat soothing. When the maids had gone and everyone was ready to talk, Thorrin stood up from his seat, "I'm glad that you could all gather after everything that has happened. I have only recently spoken to my brother in Sirius and he confirmed that the new King of Lycaon was on his way here. The ceremony will soon be taken care of with everyone present. As we have had a whole day to rest, it's nice to see that most of you took advantage of it and... Hey, Micah, I know you haven't slept all day, but you don't have to nod off here..."

Thorrin called to his brother at his side as the man got dizzier and his eyes got even more droopy. When Thorrin reached out to his brother, he watched as the man fell forward unconscious with a thud. Similar sounds went through the entire room... It was only then that Thorrin noticed what was happening... "The tea... Stop drinking the tea..." It was a warning that was a moment too late. Every hunter had taken their dose of the sleeping draught.

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Deep down within the dungeons, a few dashing figures rushed through finding next to no resistance as they rushed through looking for a few cells in particular. The hunters had all left their posts to attend a meeting and the werewolves were left to guard the prisoners in the dungeon. It was not long before they all made it to the cells of the rogue king and his generals.

They each shared keys and got to work on working with the locks which gave away quite easily. When the rogue king was finally no longer under restraints, the man stretched his arms and legs, "You know... that method of locking someone up doesn't allow them to take a piss when they want to," the man complained, turning his head at odd angles releasing cracking sounds.

"Well, you won't have to worry about that anymore, your majesty. We can leave as soon as possible," the man said to him, "If you would only come with us, we can show you the fastest way out of the capital."

"My my, aren't you playing the hero? Let me see your eyes," the rogue king said to the man ordering him around. Stepping into the light of a torch, the man revealed his face to the rogue king, they were a bright amber... a colour that the rogue king normally considered worthless.

"You've barely had any of the blessings the moon goddess graced us with. What gives you the right to give me orders?" the king said to the man.

"If I guess correctly, I would say you have run out of options at this point and you've accepted your fate. Without the power to create more rogues to accomplish your mission of eradicating humanity, your mission is as good as a dream. What if I told you that there was a solution to that problem you're facing, your majesty," the man said to him.

"As I live and breathe... I had no idea you would turn out to be useful, but I'm impressed. By all means, lead the way," the king laughed out loud, his voice booming across the dungeon.

"You must be quiet your majesty," Victor told him.

"Oh, you worry too much. In the world that I come from, we with power reign at the top. It's not something you would understand," the king replied in an equally loud voice. The generals snickered at the man's ignorance.

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"If you feel like you need some protection, dear..."

"Victor, my name is Victor," the man said to him.

"Well, Victor... I will protect you from whatever foe that might seem to want to see you dead. Of all the spies and allies I've gathered among the weaklings of this world, you might just happen to be the most

important one of them all. Now let us go find someone that wants to stop us from getting out of here,” the king replied boisterously.

“I haven’t seen the king this excited in a while. The last time was when he came up with the plan to attack the capital,” Benji smiled, watching his king adoringly.

“You’re planning to go looking for a fight when I only got you out?” Victor asked the man, bewilderment filling his voice.

“Is that what it sounded like? You yellow-eyed are quite quick to jump to worst-case scenario kind of conclusion,” the king mused only to start his way to the exit of the dungeon. On his way, he asked the generals to destroy the cages that held more criminals within them. The generals wasted no time in doing as the king had ordered. The child that Victor had almost left tied up seemed to be the most enthusiastic when it came to causing mischief.

Watching him work made the wolf regret doubting his abilities. As the boy didn’t seem to have noticed his reluctance to release, Victor hoped it would stay that way. “Well, as long as we get out of here while the hunters are all knocked out.”

The king paused in his gait and turned to face the man that had broken him out of his prison. The others that had helped him accomplish this feat didn’t seem to matter to him. Clearly, the yellow-eyed pipsqueak had orchestrated the entire breakout and was controlling the people he was using, “Did you say you knocked them all out?”

“Yeah, a powerful sleeping draught did the trick. You wouldn’t have wanted the entire family of Chase hunters following you,” Victor answered.

The king’s shoulders slumped, “I wanted to spar with that Perfect Warrior again, but alas, the man was bested by the cheap tricks of one that was weaker than him. I would scold you for that, but I guess I can’t blame you for your normal-like thinking.”

The king then turned away from Victor and proceeded with his walk. The prisoners that were released rushed out at top speed with the intention of making the most of the chance they’d been given at finding freedom. “You shouldn’t look down on me like that. I wasn’t always stuck with disgraceful colour in my eyes,” Victor lashed out.

“Oh, and what colour were you blessed with if I may ask?” the king went.

“I was a delta with forest green eyes,” Victor said, his fist clenching in anger. The repulsive face of the person who stripped him of his power still shone brightly in his mind. Every time he closed his eyes, he saw the same person and it filled him with more hatred than he could contain.

“So you freed me so you could one day take revenge on the royal that stripped you of your power?” the king surmised.

“I will take revenge on him one way or another. I will take away everything that he holds most dear until the day he comes begging me to kill him. Or at least, that would be the most desirable outcome. After all, he did the same thing to me and left me powerless. I won’t beg him to return my power, but I will make him suffer for what he did,” the man replied.

The rogue king looked at the man seething behind him and smirked, "Hang on to that feeling. In a world where you're as weak as you are, it's only the strongest of convictions that can get you through the hard times. In any case, these villains will provide the perfect distraction for our escape. I don't like using such cheap underhanded techniques, but I do want to hear what you have to say about reversing the goddess' magic."

The group walked out of the dungeons and found the wolves that had been sent as reinforcements battling the escaped villains. It was a spectacle for the king, but alas, Victor wouldn't let the man take in the carnage in front of him.

Just as they were about to disappear into the forest, the sound of a thunderclap filled the air. The king couldn't help but shiver in excitement. The man looked back at the scene behind him and saw what he'd been looking for. The Perfect warrior was working his hardest to apprehend the escaped prisoners. The king smirked at the sight of the man occupied, "I wonder if you'll be able to catch up to us. If you do, that will make this escape all the more interesting."

It was almost as though the man was talking to himself. The sun was about to start its descent and the air was cooling. The rogues took in the timing of their escape... "Talk about the perfect weather for a beat down." This came from Benji... The boy had made it into a tree and the look on his face only brought more butterflies through Victor's stomach. Right when the king had entered the forest, one of the hooded figures that had been following them took off their garments to reveal their yellow eyes and was soon followed by another.

Each time the king saw their yellow eyes, he felt as though he'd been handed more of a burden that was only going to be slaughtered at the first sight of a hunter. The last one, however, brought a smile to his face. Revealing the face beneath the hood, the king and his generals came face to face with General Amanda. "It's nice to see you doing well, your Majesty." The woman said to him.

"And it's nice to see you as well. What kept you from revealing yourself earlier?" the king asked her.

"Well, breaking out all those prisoners just sounded like work for these young men. So I waited for them to be finished," the woman shrugged.

"That's devious, Amanda," the boy was already atop her in a branch hanging low by his feet so that his face was right above hers, "I like it."

"No one's more devious than you, Benji. Honestly, your size and voice stopped fooling me a long time ago," the woman replied.

"That's a smart observation to make," the boy smiled even though it only added to the dread his adversary felt toward him.

The group continued to move in silence before the king got bored enough to ask the one question on his mind, "Alright, I'm tired of waiting. Tell me what I want to know now or you lose your life..." the king was stopped by the sound of a plane. His senses and wolf all perked up at the presence inside the plane. To a normal eye, the plane was merely passing by, but the king knew better. His ears began to extend as he drew on his wolf's power.

“What is...” Victor was stopped in his tracks when the door of the plane shattered with a violent jerk and a being shot out of it at threatening speed. Blue streaks of light seemed to surround the being that had emerged from the plane... It was a girl and the look on her face shattered his fears for the rogue king instantly. Looking beside him, he noticed a smirk grow on the rogue king’s face.

“I knew one of them wouldn’t let me down...”

259 Chapter Two Hundred Fifty Nine

Katie sat in the plane alongside her mate, feeling more anxious by the minute. Up until this moment, her stomach had been turning with dread. She couldn’t figure out what it was, but she knew it was worse than anything she’d ever felt and she had to find a way to put an end to it. Cole had noticed her anxiety growing the more they neared his home. The entire flight had been quiet and the girl had almost left with him alone.

She was in a rush to get to the Lycaon empire which nearly scared him. Tom and Marie had got her to slow down and let in the king of Sirius and her mother, Queen Martha. Drake had come along as well, along with Sandra and Cole’s beta alphas. When the crew was ready, the plane had then taken off. The flight to Lycaon was not a short one and with their short delay when they were boarding, Katie had the pilot change course so that he flew right over the palace on his way to the airport.

Before Cole could complain, Marie had stopped him. The Chase family knew something that they weren’t telling him. He chose to keep his questions to himself. After all, his assumption was that they were anxious to confirm the news about his father’s death.

The closer they got to the palace, the more Katie’s anxiety grew and at some point, Cole was perfectly sure this had nothing to do with seeing his father’s corpse, “Katie, what’s wrong?” he asked, pulling her close to him.

The girl looked him in the eye. He’d managed to get his mind in order after his short mental breakdown, but now the stable girl that had helped him through it had the cloudiest expression he had ever seen. Her eyes glazed over as though he didn’t see him directly and she was shivering. The bright blue of her eyes seemed to leak from her eyes. Cole had never seen werewolf eyes ever get that bright, but she stared back at him with a ghostly expression. Her face was pale and he found himself caressing his cheek in an effort to find out what was going on with her.

“Cole, something terrible is about to happen,” the girl told him. Everyone on the plane heard her speak. They saw how shaky her composure was. Those that could tell felt the power of her gifts flowing through her. It almost felt like there was static in the air. Like the air in the plane had been ionized by the power she was unleashing into her body.

“What do you mean something terrible is about to happen?” Cole asked the girl.

“Well, by that... I...” the girl went silent for a moment before vanishing right before his eyes. She had only just disappeared when Marie took her place, her arms grabbing nothing in her feat to catch the girl. Cole’s eyes darted around and he was just in time to see his mate in a half shift, a blue aura surrounding her. She was on the upper half of the wall exactly opposite the door to the plane. It was only for a split second that she was there. The next motion shook the plane as she shot out to the door and tore out of the plane along with the door.

“Katie... No,” Marie rushed to the door, having recovered from the sudden events. Everyone rushed to the door and windows to witness the girl who’d leapt from the plane and was now tumbling to the forest below. Her hair was white at the top and her ears were visible indicating her half shift. A loud growl rang through the air as she continued to fall... In response to her roar, another came from the forest below.

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“She can’t make a jump like that from this height. Does that girl have a death...” Sandra stopped speaking when another one of them leapt from the plane. It was Cole this time. Caden pushed forward...

“Okay, that’s it. Everyone else is to wear a parachute. We don’t want any of you to get the wrong idea. None of you is capable of surviving that fall,” Marie yelled at the top of her voice, trying to overpower the sound of the roaring wind and that of the plane. The rest of them began to put on the parachutes they could find in the plane. The situation had just escalated from what they had thought was a simple visit to the kingdom of Lycaon.

Thunder could be heard coming from the palace and the forest as well. It was soon clear that nothing was right at all in the capital as well. “Tom...”

“I will go to the capital and handle everything going on there. Go and help Katie. Take Sandra with you along with Jason. I will go with Caden,” Caden heard them distributing roles very fast that he nearly missed the point where they mentioned he wouldn’t be helping his alpha.

Those designated to help Katie were out of the plane before Caden could complain about it, “Looks like it’s just me and you buddy. Prove to me that it’s not just muscle under all that macho alpha aura of yours.” Tom said, slinging his hand around the beta alpha’s shoulder cheerfully.

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Katie could barely follow her own movements as she descended upon the forest. Anger filled her along with despair and determination. The well of emotions stirred up all the power she’d been conserving within her. She’d completely stopped feeling the signs of her prior fatigue and was focused on what was before her. Removing the bow from her back, she attached a string to it and got ready to use it to slow her descent.

In a fluid manoeuvre of well-practised moves, she landed on the forest floor, abandoning the arrow the moment she wanted to land. Before her, was the man she’d been told had been captured only the day before. She wasn’t surprised he was the reason she would be coming to Lycaon so fast. His escape was something she couldn’t allow.

‘That’s not it, Katie...’ Ashley warned the girl, ‘The rogue king... He has something more sinister in the workings. I don’t know what it is, but I’ve been studying the way you detect danger. You’re right to be on your toes. If we lose him now, I don’t think we’ll like what happens afterwards.’

Katie’s mind was clear for the first time since she’d started detecting the trouble. Her wolf had made a perfect explanation of the situation and it allowed her more focus on what was before her. “So that’s the creature the goddess was sure would put an end to me. Honestly, this is over...” the rogue king was

startled when a thunderclap rang through the air, having the girl before him with her fist outstretched and aimed at his face.

Those around him moved in accordance with the attack and to protect the rogue king. The king leapt back before the fist could connect with his face and watched with a smirk as the rest of his generals attacked the girl. Katie barely faltered, moving on to her next course of action, she let her hand touch the ground and used it as a pivot to launch a kick into the gut of the child that had decided to attack her from above.

Benji went flying, the wind was knocked right out of him. The hunter pushed off the ground and spun through the air, her knee going straight into Samson's chest before he could react. Amanda was only collateral damage from the girl thrusting Samson about like a ragdoll. The rogue king's eyes widened in shock at the fluid movements that had taken out his generals and the speed with which she had executed them. 'What's with the bright blue aura leaking from her eyes? Does she have more of the goddess' blessing than normal royals?' the man wondered, watching as the woman made direct eye contact with him.

Murderous intent behind her gaze struck him like a knife. If it hadn't been for Thane's quick movements, the king would have found himself with a disfigured face. The beta alpha stepped in the way to stop the fist that was meant for his alpha. Thane put up his forearms to shield himself from the girl's punch, however, the energy behind it was enough to push him back much more than he'd ever anticipated. The beta alpha flew past the rogue king who crouched slamming into a tree. The tree groaned from the weight that had rammed into it.

The rogue king found that he had to evade the next movement almost immediately, 'She hasn't even slowed down.' He thought to himself as the girl immediately planted one foot ahead to support her in her next movement, a lateral elbow. The king leapt away from her, narrowly dodging her attack, but the girl was already in motion, catching up to him moments after he'd felt far from her. A silhouette of a wolf covered her as she leapt for him.

Fear gripping the rogue king, the man dashed further back just in time to avoid the jaws that clamped down on his former position. It was only then that the girl stopped her movements and shifted back into her human form, eyeing the rogue king. The generals were only now recovering and surrounding her. Thane did the same even though he looked to be in the worst shape of all. The girl was not fazed by the people that surrounded her. In fact, she kept her eyes trained on the one person she'd come to kill.

"So you're the famous rogue killer," the king confirmed with a smirk. Just then a figure appeared right behind the girl, taking on a stance the king was familiar with. The woman that had just added to their group of enemies was a hunter that his memory fetched from very many years ago...

"It's been quite some time, Marie Chase," the man announced.

"I didn't come here to talk," Katie stopped the more-than-chatty rogue king in his reunion speech.

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The rogue king's generals sensed the girl's intentions and launched yet another attack to stop her from getting to their king. Katie's body moved almost on its own, taking the three of them out as fast as she could before attacking the rogue king once again. This time, there was someone who stopped the beta

alpha from attacking her. Marie rushed forward and engaged the beta alpha, blocking Thane's access to Katie.

Getting frustrated by the woman's intervention, the man attempted to swat her away with full force as someone would swat a fly with the confidence that their hands were undeniably faster than the nimble creature. The woman, using the element of surprise, flipped the man over her shoulder and slammed him down hard with his back to the ground.

The rogue king in his fit to avoid being hit by a rampaging Katie, felt his beta alpha's surprise, "Don't underestimate her. That woman is one of the Mighty Warriors. She'll snuff you out if you fail to take her seriously," the man shouted, only for one of Katie's fists to connect painfully with his gut. The force from the fist threw him straight through the stem of another tree like the obstacle meant nothing. Katie's body was fuming with more of the blue light that enveloped her. She started her walk to the rogue king. The injured generals watched the girl walk up to the man, afraid to attack once more.

Gritting his teeth, Benji was the first to muster his courage and try another attack on her. Dashing at the fastest he could manage from her blindspot, the girl turned to him almost as though she'd expected him to come. Samson saw his chance, while she was distracted by Benji and moved in. The girl, changed her motions almost to match the new man's invasion fluidly blocking the young boy's fist, but then grabbing his now stationary hand and flinging him fast into his comrade's chest. The two of them were gone from the battlefield almost as fast as they'd come. Katie continued her walk to the king. "What kind of being possesses this kind of power?" Samson asked, the woman before him. Amanda had decided on keeping her distance from the girl.

"I don't think she has that much power. More like she's at her peak at the moment and there is not a force in the world that would get the jump on her," Amanda tried to find her own explanation. The king stood up from his spot on the ground beyond the fallen tree. The girl stopped her advance on the king and watched him as he stood up.

"You're powerful. I'll give you that. It's about time I took this seriously," the more the king spoke, the deeper his voice rumbled. The rogue king's eyes flashed blue and black fur began to spout around his face while his face distorted to give him a more wolfish appearance. Katie took in his appearance, a half shift like hers... all except for one thing. Behind the rogue king, a black starry bushy tail appeared. 'A complete half shift,' Ashley's voice came into her mind.

'Does it matter...' Katie asked her.

The wolf was bound to tell her why it was significant, however, sensing the girl's emotions, it was irrelevant for her to say anything about it, "Not now... It doesn't matter. Our objective remains the same and that's what we'll do.'

The king was before Katie in the next moment, surprising her with the significant increase in speed. The girl side-stepped dodging his kick by a hair and got into the fight as well. The two of them roared in a fight that was now more equal. The rogue king was no longer overwhelmed and he could contain the monstrous strength of the blows that were thrown at him. "You're powerful. I'll have to give you that..." he was stopped when the girl's knee connected with his chin in an upward jump that sent the rogue king flying in the air.

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The rogue king recovered in mid-air and landed on his feet, sliding back until he stopped by a tree, "Talking will only get you killed, so by all means, keep it up," Katie's voice came cold.

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The beta alpha fought with all his heart and soul after being warned by his king, however, no matter how much he tried, the woman before him was always a step ahead of him. At some point, the beta alpha was sure this woman was far more than a simple step ahead of him. Her attacks didn't pack a punch to them, but they were many and overwhelming.

Even when he tried his best to keep on his toes, the woman weaved around him and stepped in the right place to have him trip over his own footing. She kicked at his knees and hit the insides of his elbows and his throat while she made sure to stay out of his line of sight. 'She's aiming for weak points while keeping in my blind spot.' The man's thoughts rang through his mind while he tried to do something about her.

"You know, you would be much easier to take down if I had my knives. You're really nothing but a hunk of muscle. The one in the reserve was much faster," the woman said, taking a breather away from the alpha. Thane looked to his alpha and saw what he could only describe as a fight between gods... The two of them were fighting at immense speeds and the wind from their attacks was violent.

"She really wants to kill him," the man smirked, "That's the only way one could ever hope to defeat the rogue king anyway." He had been out of breath but had now recovered. "I underestimated you, but I won't do something like that again."

Marie chuckled at the man's motivation to fight and went in for the next attack. However this time, there was someone else that decided to join in. A boy showed up in front of the beta alpha with a wicked smile on his face. One that caught the woman completely off-guard before the one behind her struck her with the side of his palm and knocked her unconscious.

The sound of a thunderclap tearing through the sky brought them all to believe they hadn't seen the worst of their worries just yet. The man they'd all feared to catch up to them had finally caught up and he was closing in faster than any of them wished he could, "Can't those hunters ever run quietly? Especially the ones that have all the power to run like bullets," Samson complained, rubbing his shoulder in an attempt to soothe the pain he'd got from being tossed around by Katie.

"I don't see an opening," Thane's voice silenced them. They looked in the direction the beta alpha was looking and found a fight between their king and the new arrival. None of them had thought it was possible to have the rogue king use his half shift in a fight, but now they were watching it happen and the girl was keeping up with him... No, she was giving him a tough time to beat.

"Do you think it has something to do with that blue aura around her?" Benji asked.

"It might... she's expelling more divine energy than I've ever felt our king do," Thane said to them.

"What are you..." just then, a man dashed into the small clearing, aiming straight for the rogue king. As expected, the girl shifted her position and let the new arrival take her place against the rogue, only

getting back into the fight when he was completely open and covering for him. The two of them fought fluidly together without ever communicating.

With a roar from the rogue king, he struck the man in the gut and followed through with a kick that sent him flying and wasted no time in doing the same with the girl. The girl shot across the field in what might have been the first attack to grace her body. The rogue king was panting, but he'd finally made his first step towards progress... "So she's using all the power of the gods she has in her body to see her mission to the end. I'll give you something to think about girl. After this, you won't be able to ever lift a finger again. Expel all that energy and you will lose just as much as I will."

The king was panting while he spoke, but he didn't look like someone who wanted to go again with the two of them. The girl pulled herself from the bark of the tree she had slammed into and growled lowly... a silhouette of a large wolf enveloping her body in blue... Her eyes shone a bright blue but left her irises dark blue. Before she could attack again, a black wolf dashed before her and shifted into a young man with blue eyes. The man quickly hugged the girl tight. The silhouette of the wolf vanished just as soon as she was in his hands and her determined look to fight vanished as well.

"We can strike now that..." Thane had begun only to stop.

"No, Thane... We leave now... While the Chase family is still weak. While we still have the upper hand. More will come the longer we stay here. There is no guarantee the sleeping draught that the boy used will last much longer.

In the history of the rogues, this was the rogue king's first display of fear for his own life... and the rogues retreated.