

Chosen 301

Chapter 301 Fired Up Again...

Sandra and Katie found Kyle leaning against the wall adjacent to the main gate, humming to himself with his arms crossed in a tune Sandra could have sworn were familiar.

The boy didn't complain about anything at all even when Katie felt some of the pain he was feeling from the occasional torture that served as his punishment. In fact, he smiled when they approached him, "How are you doing?" Katie asked.

"Of course, he's not doing well, Katie. You don't have to ask him that question," Sandra cut him off before he could speak. Katie, however, didn't take it as an answer and remained silent waiting for Kyle to speak up.

"I'm getting used to it. The wounds heal faster. I'll be fine," he replied humbly with a slight bow.

Sandra raised her hand against the boy and watched him flinch, "Oh come on, Kyle. I'm only teasing you. You make it too easy." The new hunter grumbled, "Would the two of you lighten up already?"

"I'll lighten up when I hear some good news coming from Kyle's mouth," the Luna sighed, turning around to the direction that led them back to the palace, "Go on, Kyle."

"Yeah, right. I have been hearing a case going about. Abductions randomly occurring throughout the city. No one knows the culprit, but the missing person reports won't stop coming in," Kyle explained.

"Is there a specific pattern to the people that are disappearing?" Katie asked.

"Well, at first, there didn't seem to be a pattern at all. A child born to a noble family was abducted. He was their first born so you can imagine the noise the nobles are giving the future king.

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There was the other case concerning a girl that was about to make her debut as a musician. I don't usually pay attention to specific music icons, but this girl was apparently said to be really good. I heard the music, she's really..."

"Does your secret crush on the woman have anything to do with the case?" Katie interrupted him.

"In my opinion, it does. Caden asked that I help out and I did a little more digging into those that were being captured. The culprit hasn't been found yet even after the Chase family visits the different homes belonging to their families. It's a mystery to everyone," Kyle said to her.

Katie took this bit of information as a lack of murderous intent to keep the culprits from the Chase hunters' radar.

"Well, who else vanished?" she asked. Kyle continued to tell her about the different cases that he'd heard of. Each one had one thing in common which Katie found easier to see just because Kyle kept insinuating something about the people that had vanished.

“Each one of them had something going for them. Their lives were going great and they had great potential the culprit abducted them. What’s the end goal for something like that?” Kyle summarised at the end.

“My guess is that with that big a number of potentially important people, the culprit is hoping to collect a heavy ransom. And since it’s within the capital, the people are going to turn to the royals for help. They will be asking Cole for help and the perpetrator could just name a high price. Being royalty, Cole will be able to meet the price,” Sandra deduced.

“That is a plausible approach to the whole matter. Has the Perfect Warrior been able to detect any foul play?” Katie asked.

‘I was about to ask if you had, but I guess that’s a no,’ the boy replied through their shared mind link, “No, the Perfect Warrior hasn’t been able to detect anything yet and it’s... getting on his nerves.”

“Well, this is definitely a tough one. I have no doubt the hunters are out there trying to find any clue that could lead them to the culprit,” Katie sighed.

“What are you going to do, Katie?” Sandra asked the Luna. She was in no state to play detective, but Sandra was sure she would not let it go without offering some sort of help.

“I will have to visit the places visited by the person that was captured most recently,” the girl replied. ‘Ashley, are you strong enough to come out?’ she asked her wolf.

‘Not as strong as I’m supposed to be, but if I understand where you’re going with this, I might be able to help,’ the wolf replied weakly.

‘That’s all we’ll need, Ashley. Thank you,’ the girl would have given a tight-lipped smile if she was speaking to someone on the physical plane.

‘No problem, Katie,’ the wolf replied before going silent once again. The silence in her mind brought her more sadness. It had been like this since that day and almost nothing had changed.

“Katie... Your eyes are dimming again,” Kyle told her in a tone that dictated that it was normal.

“Oh, sorry,” Katie sighed, letting her eyes flash a vibrant blue once more. It was something she’d learned from her wolf. When Ashley was completely withdrawn, the glow in her eyes dimmed out and left her with the dark blue orbs that, she only recently discovered, her mate had once feared.

“Are you doing alright?” Sandra asked her once more.

“Yeah, my wolf that’s still a little weak is all,” she replied truthfully. Unlike Kyle, Sandra was not aware of her current werewolf weakness. They continued walking to the palace, talking of other cases that the boy had been looking into.

Many of them he used as jokes that made him snicker at the beta alphas. Cole was fond of leaving them to handle duties that were utterly impossible to imagine a king taking care of on his own, for example, squabbling among the nobles.

As they neared the palace, the number of people that would bow in respect to Katie began to increase. This was what notified the girl that their walk was soon coming to an end. She ceased her laughter and

assumed a more composed Luna-worthy elegance before walking into the palace. Kyle could barely contain himself as he watched the girl pay attention to everyone who passed by, greeting her and accompanying her name with the title of 'Luna.'

"Do you have something to say, Kyle?" the girl raised her voice when they reached the large double doors at the palace entrance.

"Well, I have been with you for a large part of my life and trust me, I don't know when it will stop being funny every time I hear someone referring to you as the Luna of the Lycaon empire," he laughed out loud, completely disregarding his alpha's agitated tone.

Katie giggled at his silly behaviour, "When your punishment is done, you'll have to get used to people calling you Alpha Kyle."

This was enough to shut him up, "That's not funny, Katie."

"It sure is. How is training with Caden going?" Katie asked him.

"What training? I know nothing about any training," Kyle huffed.

As they rounded a corner on their way to the king's office, Katie collided with a wall or more like a Cole-scented body... and one that her wolf(along with Katie) wanted to drown in.

She staggered back, trying to get her bearings, but Cole pulled her into a hug, raising her off the ground to meet his height, "Where have you been?"

"Hunter's Agency, Cole, I need to breathe," the girl struggled in his suffocating embrace.

The royal reluctantly let go of her and set her down, "Well, what's buzzing about your busy mind? I thought I was sure to keep you aware of matters concerning the kingdom."

"Speaking of the kingdom, is everything going fine?" she asked.

"Yeah... why would you..." seeing the beta alpha standing behind his mate, he stopped speaking. He then turned to Sandra who took a cautious step back and raised her hands in the air, surrendering, "You are to leave that to me."

"I can help you, Cole."

"No, you're not ready to start exerting yourself again just yet," the royal argued.

"Since when do you decide when I can help you or not? You don't seem to hold back when you want to help me with something," she countered.

"No, Katie, that is different and you know it. I would let you help me if you were fine, but you're not fine Katie," the man raised his voice to match Katie's, looking her dead in the eye.

Tears swarmed the girl's face before she wiped them away, "You don't have to remind me, Cole. I know I can't do much."

Cole pulled her into a heartfelt hug. It stung to see tears in her eyes, "You'll get better again, Katie and when..."

“Come with me then,” the girl cut him off calmly.

“Go with you where?”

“The homes of the people who’ve been abducted or at least the most recent that you know of. I only mean to help you track them,” the girl replied, “I won’t do any more than that.”

“Katie, you care too much for people in danger. I can’t guarantee you won’t rush out into danger again. If you pull the same stunt you did the Rogue King, you could die...”

“I know, Cole. You’ve never let me forget it. Are you coming with me or not? I didn’t break my promise the last time I made one,” the girl replied.

“What... You jumped out of a plane and attacked the most dangerous man on the planet. How was that keeping your promise?” Cole exclaimed.

“You have a point there, but that time, I had help. I didn’t go alone, right?” she tried, flashing the taller man a bright smile.

“Goddess, help me. It’s like talking to a brick wall,” Cole pinched the bridge of his nose. Katie took this as her victory and pecked the alpha’s cheek.

“Thank you, Cole. You can call Caden... or Jason as well. Hurry up... I’ll be waiting by the car,” the girl gave him his orders and was off, abandoning her original path to the king’s palace.

Sandra chuckled, “It is nice though... To see Katie fired up again.”

“Yeah, there is no denying that,” Cole replied, smiling as he watched his mate skip away with her beta alpha following closely behind, ‘I just hope you get better soon. We could really use your help right about now...’ he silently wished.

Chapter 302 Snow White Luna

Katie thrummed her fingers on the dashboard, sighing for the umpteenth time, “Where is he already?” the girl groaned. The beta alpha in the back seat chuckled.

“You told him you’re going to track down the person that has been abducting people in Lycaon. There is a preparation process for that kind of operation. Besides, they have you to protect when they get there,” Kyle replied.

“Oh, stop explaining everything Kyle and tell me how you’re finding Lycaon and I want the unaltered truth this time,” the girl turned to her beta alpha for distraction.

Kyle was quiet for a bit before speaking, trying to avoid her piercing gaze, “You know I don’t have a will of my own just yet. I’m not allowed to have a will that’s against you. I only care to protect you and do everything in my power to defend those that are dear to you. Beyond that, I don’t really have an opinion,” the boy replied with a nervous smile.

“So you’re still only a walking shadow of your former self?” Katie sighed. She was visibly disappointed but didn’t show signs that she’d lost hope.

“No, I’m not, but I haven’t found something else to fight for either. I would like to think of it as being on the verge of a new beginning,” he replied honestly.

“Your truth is starting to confuse me a bit. If you were to find your mate, would that give you something to fight for?” she asked him.

“That’s a bit extreme, but I guess the answer to that would be yes,” he chuckled.

Just then, a group of werewolves emerged from the palace. Pack warriors that Katie had now come to recognise by face although not by name. She hadn’t placed that much effort into knowing those that surrounded her yet as her mind was still plagued with worries concerning herself.

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However, one of them had managed to get under her skin. A beta’s daughter to one of the alphas that lived within Lycaon. Cole had told her to just give the woman time as she was a former suitor that had approached the prince, but Katie couldn’t let it slide that easily, thinking back to her experience with Crysta.

“Why is she here?” the Luna groaned.

“Who?” Kyle asked, peering out the window, “Oh, you mean Bella? Come on... She’s hot and popular with the guys as well as an excellent warrior. She’s honestly better than many I’ve met up until this point.”

“You’re trying to make me feel worse than I already do. I thought you said there was no training for you,” Katie countered.

“That’s because there isn’t any training for me. When Caden feels like he needs a punching bag, he takes me into the ring and practically... beats the crap out of me,” Kyle shuddered, sinking into his seat.

“Come on, Kyle. You’re a beta alpha. You’re meant to be stronger than that,” she encouraged, turning to face him in the back seat, “You stand your ground the next time and defend yourself.”

“What if he orders me to stand still?” Kyle asked her.

“Well, if that happens, then you tell me straight through the mind link. I’ll free you from his control immediately,” she answered.

Kyle sank even deeper into his seat. His new orders were the most frightening he’d had yet, “That will piss him off and encourage him to break a few bones this time.”

“It also means you’ll get the chance to learn something from him. You and I both know what’s going to happen to you,” she reminded.

“You should just have me killed,” the boy replied in a voice barely a whisper, “Honestly, I don’t deserve to serve someone like you.”

“You feel that guilt eating at you, Kyle? When you stop feeling guilty for what you did, I’ll have Caden stop punishing you,” Katie responded, “Until then, hang in there and do what you can to make the most out of this situation.”

After a short silence, "Understood Alpha Katie."

"What are the two of you talking about?" a cheery girl's voice came as Cole approached along with Jason, "Oh, Cole, you can sit in the back with me and have Jason drive." The girl's voice was like that of a siren, bearing the tone that was nearly impossible to resist... and it got on Katie's nerves.

"Bella, I'll drive," Cole replied, opening the driver's door, "Otherwise I'll get rusty if Jason does it every time."

The girl pouted, but let it slide and let Jason through the back door. Katie could have sworn she was aware of the other beta alpha that was inside the car and had intentionally kept her distance.

Katie did what she did best and ignored her, "Cole, where are we going?"

"Well, the home of the musician that was supposed to make her debut on the day of my coronation," Cole replied, checking his phone for the address that was sent to him.

"Oh, that sounds like trouble. I hope she's fine," Katie responded, "Is she human or werewolf?"

"She's a werewolf and one of the only few capable of a half shift. It makes her even more animated when she's on stage," Cole replied.

"Good morning, Luna Katie. How is the morning treating ya?" Jason's cheery voice pitched in from the back seats. In her feat to ignore the girl, she had ignored Jason as well.

"It's going great, Jason. Thanks for asking. I would have thought you would stay behind with Sandra like you did last time," Katie replied, wiggling her eyebrows at him through the driving mirror.

"As much as I would have liked to do that, I was the one that visited the family of this girl, so it would be easier if I was the one that they met again to continue this investigation," he responded.

"Oh, that makes sense," Katie replied as Cole started the car engine. The king placed a kiss on his mate's forehead.

"Don't overdo it," he said one more time. Katie was sure her ears would fall off with how many times he'd said that.

"I'll be fine, Cole," she replied in a low tone. When Cole wouldn't drive, she slumped back into her seat, defeated, "I won't."

"That's better..." and they were off.

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The family of the musician didn't give them much trouble in letting them gain access to the girl's room. With Jason accompanying them, they were more inclined to let them in. As he'd explained, they were instantly calmed by his presence, 'Huh, Jason is a charmer...'

Katie's eyesight was invaded by a storm of pink when they entered the room, "Ah, I'm going blind, Cole. Everything's pink."

The king laughed, "That would be the aim when you enter this room." They moved about the room and searched for anything that could have retained the scent strongest.

"How about this? Will this help?" Bella smirked, holding up underwear between her index finger and middle finger.

"A shirt will do, Bella," the girl replied with a plastic smile, "Something from one of her previous performances perhaps."

Ignoring the beta once more, she moved to the girl's wardrobe and opened it. After rummaging through the different glamorous outfits, she sighed in disappointment.

'Nothing... Everything had been washed clean and perfumed to perfection.

"How about this?" Katie turned to see the missing musician's mother holding up a shirt, "It was the one she was wearing before she changed into her stage clothes. And those stage clothes were the last thing I ever saw her wear. The words brought tears to the woman's eyes.

Katie approached the woman and held her hand in hers. Training as a hunter involved learning how to talk to civilians, and her comforting voice was nothing short of spectacular, "Don't worry. We'll do our best to find her."

Almost immediately she touched the shirt, the scent of the girl was imprinted in the back of her mind. 'I've got it, Katie,' Ashley told her as she brought the shirt up to her face.

'No kidding...!' Katie was astonished by how fast it had worked. She hadn't even needed to bring the cloth to her nose. Just to be sure, the girl did so anyway and the scent was the same.

"Katie, you got something?" Cole asked. The Luna nodded.

"Yeah, I have, but I won't be able to track her down in my human form. The scents are stronger when I've shifted," she explained.

"Very well. I'll be with you the entire way. You are not to push yourself just because you feel like you've nearly reached them, is that clear?" Cole argued.

"Yeah, I hear you loud and clear, Cole," she grumbled before heading out of the room and down the stairs. Cole rubbed his temples and sighed.

"Cole, aren't you being a little overprotective?" Jason asked him.

"I can't help it. I've watched her get injured far too many times. It's not done me any good," the king replied.

Turning to the musician's mother, he thanked her for her cooperation and walked out, following the path his mate had taken.

They were out of the house and gathered in a group before long. Cole addressed the whole team Katie was supposed to be leading on the procedures to be followed. Katie, on the other hand, couldn't be bothered to pay attention. After all, she was now sure she wouldn't get a chance at the action... not like she would try if she got the chance.

“How does it feel to be on the sidelines? Are you really that weak?” Bella walked up to her. The Luna had barely noticed her approach her and was almost startled by her sudden appearance.

She was grateful for having Kyle stand between the two of them at the right moment. If it hadn't been for him, Katie was sure this beta would have crossed her personal space, “What are you, her bodyguard?”

“More or less... Luna Katie isn't in the mood to talk to you, so I will kindly ask that you step away,” he replied.

“After all the times alpha Caden has put you in your place, you have the nerve to stand up to me,” Bella smirked.

“That's enough, both of you,” Katie commanded, “We don't need a fight amongst us when there is already one we are going to. Working together should be our goal here.”

“Oh, look at who's acting like you're in charge,” the girl replied.

Katie balled her fists in anger at the girl's disrespect, but cursed inwardly when she couldn't find the strength she sought, ‘So this is what it feels like to be weak.’

Cole finally finished talking and turned to them, “Hey, Katie, are you good to go?”

“Yeah, I am,” the Luna replied, turning her attention to the wolf within her. ‘Ashley, are you there?’

‘You know I am. Is it time yet?’ the wolf responded groggily. She sounded as though she was only waking up.

‘Yes, Ashley, it is time. How long can you stay up?’ Katie asked the wolf.

‘If we don't try to draw on too much power, I can stay up for a couple of hours,’ the wolf replied.

‘Very well... Let's hope that's all the time we'll need,’ she replied before allowing the wolf to take over her body. The girl's eyes flashed a brilliant blue before the transformation replaced her body almost instantly with that of a large snow-white wolf. The wolves that had accompanied them gasped in awe as they witnessed her brilliant wolf.

The rays of the sun bounced off her silky white fur, enhancing her beautiful form.

‘Hahaha, beat that... Bella,’ Ashley gloated. Katie was sure the wolf had hunted for a way to twist the beta's name and failed.

Cole chuckled at the wolf's remark and shifted into his own black version of hers, the two of them mirror opposites of each other, ‘Should we get going before you manage to make that girl shift out of raw jealousy?’

‘Yes, my love... I shall lead you to the abducted wolves in style...’ the wolf replied, ruffling her white glistening fur in pride and holding her nose high.

This brief demonstration was aimed at crashing a certain admirer of her mate, but it was short-lived as she had to focus on tracking down the lost musician. Cole was dumbfounded... He'd never seen this side of his mate... and also took a mental note to keep his distance from Bella onwards.

With that brief display of dominance, the hunting party was off, following the two wolves in their cars and staying ever vigilant, ready to defend them as soon as the opportunity arose.

Chapter 303 Another Side to the King

The convoy of vehicles followed the white wolf through the city, following the scent of the missing musician for almost thirty minutes. Katie would sometimes hear the wolves talking and take note of what was useful to her.

As it seemed, they'd passed the stadium that the girl was supposed to be performing at a little while ago. As they continued through the city, stopping only to ask the bare minimum of questions, Katie eventually stopped running when she reached an alleyway. The scent was faint, but she was certain it was the one and was sure of where they were.

The white wolf silently rolled her eyes when she heard one of Bella's controversial comments. The pack warriors moving with her urged her to remain quiet lest she risked angering the king.

"Katie, the cars can't proceed from here," Cole mentioned through the mind link.

"That's why I stopped for you to give the next order. They'll have to go on from here on foot," the girl said to him. A hand settled deep into the fur on the white wolf's head startling the girl and forcing her to flinch at the sudden contact.

Looking beside her, Katie noticed Thorrin Chase, the Perfect Warrior and someone she was meant to consider her uncle.

"Hey, relax, it's just me," the man chuckled, before patting her head once more. The white wolf was easily taller and bigger than him, but from the power he exuded, it was as though she was only his pet. Katie nudged him and projected her thoughts into his mind, "Uncle, stop petting me. That's embarrassing."

"I find your wolf form far too adorable... even though you're a little too big for a wolf. You'll just have to deal with it. I can't resist. Seriously, who gets to see, no less touch a wolf this white and fluffy?" the pack warriors pretended not to be watching this conversation and hid their snickers in coughs and sneezes, for those that really couldn't keep it in...

Except for Bella... the beta was grinning from ear to ear. However, what happened next had her scoffing...

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"You know, he is right. You are one fluffy wolf," Cole confirmed.

"Cole, don't encourage him," Katie gave up on the hopelessness of the two males that accompanied her.

"Are they through here?" Thorrin asked her.

Katie nodded before starting the walk through the alley, "They are. I don't know where exactly though. I just know that this alleyway is the only way to get there. Her scent is strong here. She definitely went through here," the girl replied.

"I can pick up a few signs of life in here, but nothing malicious. I don't understand this at all. Ever since he left, I've been picking up senses of trouble, but nothing too definite. It's new territory for the Chase family," Thorrin cursed. His hand was still deep within the girl's fur, gently caressing the white wolf's fluffy head.

The war between sleep and embarrassment was starting to shift in tide... and when Thorrin finally stopped petting the girl, she wasn't so sure which was worse anymore... 'Ashley...'

'Don't you dare blame me for giving into our nature,' the wolf was quick to defend, having seen this coming a mile away. Katie was developing a habit of blaming her for everything she didn't understand that happened to her.

At the end of the alleyway, they found a door locked with chains. Thorrin easily snapped the chains with his bare hands making them look similar to merely strips of tape that had been used to lock the door. 'Katie, we can't proceed from here in our wolf form. The ceiling is too low,' Ashley replied.

Taking note of the difference between the door and their form, the girl asked, "Can't we... change size as we did back at the reserve?"

"That needs more divine energy since it's one of our abilities and umm... we are running low on that," the wolf replied sadly.

The girl shifted back into her human form, but not quite completely, her ears and the top of her hair remained white. The fur that sprouted from her head overlapped the black and made her look as though she was wearing a white helmet since the rest of the hair that flowed down her back remained black. The girl continued following the scent, Cole already at her side in his human form.

She could tell he was ready to defend her in case of anything and with the impervious nature of his body, she couldn't think of anyone better suited for the task.

The building was quiet and dark for the most part as there was barely a window that let in any light. Katie continued walking through, following the scent of the girl. She picked up other scents, but couldn't quite distinguish them. The scent of dust was also thick. Her ears darted in all directions in search of sound, until... a heartbeat that was completely out of place reached her ears.

Looking around, she realised it didn't belong to any of the people she was leading through the building.

Katie strained her ears to locate its source but found that she didn't have to do so much. The heartbeat got louder the more she followed the scent. Her eyes widened when that one heartbeat turned to two... and two turned to four. Soon enough, she heard several heartbeats echoing from the direction they were following.

Her own body tensed and she barely noticed when she began to increase her walking speed.

Cole's hand grabbed hers as he noticed her sudden need to move faster, "Where?" he asked through the mind link. The girl pointed to a door at the end of the hallway.

Thorrin, however, was already on his way to the mentioned door. The wolves followed the Perfect Warrior to the door and waited quietly as he opened it.

Tension filled the air as they tried to keep their element of surprise. There was no sign of movement inside the room, but they couldn't afford to let their guards down. Cole stepped forward to shield his mate from whatever awaited them within the room. Katie could only squeeze his hand more... 'He doesn't have to protect me from this far out...' she yelled in her mind.

'I'll protect you any day, Katie. Powerful or powerless, that will never change,' Cole replied to her thought.

'Stop reading my mind.'

'You meant to tell me that, but you probably didn't realise it. Katie, don't push yourself. No one decided you were to protect the entire world. Allow us the chance to protect you for a change... as you have done for everyone else for a very long time,' the king said to her in a loving voice. It was hard to stay mad at him when he spoke that way.

The door creaked open and Thorrin walked into it as though there was no threat waiting for him inside the room, "Alpha Cole, call an ambulance... or many for that matter," he yelled, startling the entire group of wolves.

The group rushed through the door and found a staircase leading to an underground floor. At the bottom of the stairs, was a door that led to a room containing a large number of hospital beds. Each and every bed held a body, "Uncle Thorrin, are they..."

"No, they are still alive, but barely. If nothing is done soon, however, they will..." before he could finish his statement, a screen glitched to life.

"My my my, would you look at that? You accidentally found my lair," Katie felt anger boiling within her. The last person to have done something of the sort had been Kyle, but she had found Kyle and that had been different. This one was someone else, "I believe you all know my name. I am 'The Boogeyman' as I'd like to call myself and my speciality is stealing dreams... and causing nightmares. The young people in this room all had their hopes and dreams shining brightly ahead of them.

The looks on their faces when I'd captured them and let them know they were never going to go to that concert or be the alpha of the pack they had been told they were destined for. It was priceless... Nevertheless, I didn't intend to kill them. No, not one bit...

In fact, I meant to let you know that I had captured them so that you could come running and save them. Well, it was kind of a win-win situation for me because, if you saved them, then you would get my message, but if you didn't, their dreams would be crushed and mine as well."

"Don't listen to him, get all these people to the hospital," Cole yelled at the top of his voice.

"Oh, this is only a recording, by the way. I am not actually in the room that you see me speaking from. This was a happy experiment though. I have heard... no, we have heard stories of the Rogue killer, so we wanted to test her for ourselves and to be honest, it was all a lie," the man burst into an evil cackle.

Through his dark laughter, he continued to speak, "We picked them off one by one and she didn't even notice a thing. The legends were all make-believe. Well, I guess you really can't believe the word of a traitor." This time Katie felt anger coming from someone else. Kyle could barely contain himself as he listened to what the man was saying.

“The beta alpha moved up to the screen and looked about it, feeling for its different sides until he found what he was looking for, a flash drive stuck in the side of the monitor. The moment it was out, the screen went blank, “We’ll find everything he recorded on this.”

“Well done, Kyle. We really didn’t need that voice whispering into the minds of the wolves here,” Thorrin congratulated him, taking the flash drive and getting to work helping the wolves take the victims out of the basement.

“What do you think he was trying to accomplish and who were the others he was talking about?” Katie asked Cole.

“The criminals that escaped the dungeon on the day the rogue king broke out. Many of them were captured, but a few of them survived. We searched the entire capital, but there was no sign of them. I now know what happened to them,” he explained.

“They regrouped and teamed up and now they are plotting something against the capital of Lycaon?” Katie asked.

“Yeah... that’s what I would assume,” Sandra spoke for the first time. ‘Where did she come from?’ Ashley was startled.

‘She’s been here the whole time,’ Katie responded.

The wolf went quiet for a bit before speaking up, ‘We’ve found them, haven’t we?’

‘Yes, yes we did... You did well, Ashley.’

‘Yeah, feels nice to know I can still do something,’ the wolf replied. Katie could feel the warmth coming off her alter ego. However, in the next moment, she felt herself revert to her human form. Her mind was quiet once more...

Far too quiet...

Katie turned away from the monitor and approached a child that was lying a bed asleep. The boy was still breathing steadily and didn’t seem to be hurt. She reached out for the boy before Cole stopped her, holding her hand gently.

“Let the others handle this,” he asked her in a calm tone. Bella walked up to them and carried the boy into her arms.

“Yes, Luna Katie. Let’s handle the hard work. You can just sit still and look pretty, okay?”

“Bella, that was uncalled for,” Cole scowled.

“Hey, I’m not the reason she...”

“Apologise to your future Luna, Bella. Or would you be better off hearing me sending you into exile?” Cole had gone from calm and soothing to livid in a matter of seconds.

Seeing that she had overstepped, the woman bowed to Katie and apologised before scurrying away with the young boy in her arms, “I wouldn’t have thought you would snap at a woman up until now,” Katie teased Cole, batting her eyelashes at him, “And all just for me...”

"I have my limit, Katie," he groaned, pulling her into a hug. It was only then that the Luna noticed the man was trying to calm his rage. Smiling, the girl hugged him back.

"Well, I am right here and nothing has happened to me. It's not like Bella would have gotten the chance to attack me anyway..."

"If you wish it, I could have her moved out of Lycaon," Cole whispered into her ear.

"No, we won't be needing that, Cole," the girl replied, wondering where he'd been hiding his overprotective and possessive side all this time.

Chapter 304 Villainous Recording

Cole left to help out with the rescue after asking Katie to stay put. The girl nearly screamed at him, but the kiss he placed on her forehead didn't allow her frustration to leak through.

A meeting was later held in the conference room containing all the high-ranking werewolves in the capital concerning the incident that had just occurred.

Katie sat in the luxuriously crafted throne next to Cole's empty one, which dwarfed hers in comparison. The Luna sighed, not caring to show her attitude to the alphas and betas that had made it to the conference room and joined her in waiting for the king to join them. "What is a human doing in this room?" Bella groaned.

"What human?" Katie asked, faking amusement. She scanned through the tables dramatically, her eyes skipping over Sandra like she was a wolf as well.

The newly-licensed hunter narrowed her eyes at her friend, her mind trying to figure out what she was playing at.

"The one that follows you everywhere," the woman replied, "Obviously..."

"Oh, you mean Sandra. Last I checked, she is a hunter. That's the same qualification as my uncle and Aunt Evelyn," Katie replied turning to the members of her adoptive family that were in the room.

"Katie, let's not have another one of your childish squabbles this time," Evelyn spoke up, eyeing the girl. The Luna looked between her aunt and Bella, then rolled her eyes and gave up the meaningless squabble.

'Ashley, are you okay?' she asked the wolf within her.

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'Yeah, I'm fine. Just a little exhausted,' the wolf replied, 'Permission to rest... completely.'

Katie sighed, noting the meaning behind her wolf asking for complete rest. It wasn't the first time, 'Granted.' The glow in her eyes vanished while she had her eyes closed. 'This is going to be interesting,' she thought to herself.

The doors swung open, letting Cole in along with his beta alphas. Kyle was walking along with them. The king walked up to Katie's seat and placed a kiss on her forehead before taking his place beside her. 'That

throne is painfully bigger than mine,' the girl mentally groaned. Cole's amusement came through the mind link.

Caden and Jason remained standing behind him and so did Kyle, however, he stood behind Katie, "There is no place for a..."

"Hold your tongue, Bella," Katie snapped, finally looking up to reveal her cold dark blue orbs. The girl was tongue-tied, but now for completely different reasons.

Cole turned to Katie and hesitated when he noticed the change in her appearance. His shock then turned to worry, "How are you holding up?" he asked.

Katie was stunned by how fast he'd read through her, "I'm fine, Cole. Just a little tired is all." The king interpreted her tone as a sign that he was to stop pampering her and skip to the point.

"I'm glad you could all make it. Thanks to Luna Katie, we were able to uncover the hideout where the missing people were all being kept and we were able to get all of them to the hospital without any deaths. A few of them were only left with a short amount of time to live had we arrived later than we did," Cole began.

"How did the Luna lead you to the hideout when no one else could?" one of the older-looking alphas asked.

"She tracked them down. As we all know, tracking someone down is almost impossible when the trail has already been allowed to run cold. That's not always the case for the Luna," Cole explained.

"That's impressive," a hint of pride shone through the man's wizened crimson, nodding in acknowledgement, "Please carry on."

"We found a recording in the hideout. It seems the criminals expected us to find their victims. Watching it would have cost us valuable time, so I chose to play it in full during this meeting before we decide on what happens next," Cole continued.

Kyle took a step towards the large screen pinned on the side of the wall on the other side of the conference hall. Finding the port on it, he set it up.

The video played following what Katie remembered up until the point that Kyle had unplugged it earlier, "Well, the likes of us criminals that have been locked up for so long have learnt a lot during the time we're in that dungeon of yours.

We know how the Chase family can detect someone just because they walked into their radius of detection. We know that they detect anyone like that to be bad the moment they let their murderous intent get the better of them. Detecting their power through their aura is also another way which can be suppressed. I'm only letting you know that you are not going to stop what's coming.

King Cole Lycaon is going to have a coronation in one week. We shall be there in the flesh. If you ever do find this video, then you have a heads-up. It would be fun to get through some tight security."

'What do they even want?'

“As for what we want, that’s simple,” the man continued as though reading Katie’s mind, “We want revenge for the years we were locked up. It’s that simple. It’s quite clear to us that something is wrong with the rogue killer. She was the one that gave the rogue king a hard time. With her out of the way, the rest of you don’t stand a chance.”

“They are completely ignoring my presence,” Thorrin sighed.

“Oh, we haven’t forgotten about the Perfect Warrior. That’s a challenge we are willing to take. It will be fun. See you all there,” the man winked, only to laugh crazily and turn off the recorder.

Katie hadn’t missed the most important part of the man’s appearance. The red eyes that had stared right back at them through the whole video, “Who is that man?”

“He’s one of the rogue king’s former generals that I captured. His time in prison must have lowered his value to the rogue king as he didn’t regroup with him after being released. Either that or the rogue king’s new generals are simply more powerful,” Thorrin answered Katie’s question.

The girl stared blankly at the table before her, only cursing at her lack of ability to help, “What did he mean by there is something wrong with the rogue killer? I thought that was Luna Katie.” This time, it was Bella that asked.

“I’m not in fighting shape at the moment. They must have noticed,” Katie sighed.

“Umm, might you explain your eyes as well?” a younger alpha asked, impatience breaking his threshold for tolerance, “I mean, who else wasn’t curious?” The rest at the table didn’t look him in the eye. They’d all been holding it in.

“My wolf is... how should I put this? Asleep... As I said, I’m tired,” the girl replied with a sigh, “Cole, what are you going to do about the coronation?”

The question barely phased the royal. It seemed he’d been thinking of the same thing, “Might I suggest we continue with the coronation as scheduled? You invited the wolves of Sirius if I remember correctly. I can have Thomas and Micah return on that flight and add them to the security detail,” Thorrin spoke up before the king.

“I was thinking of letting the ceremony proceed as planned,” Cole replied thoughtfully, “If we let the ceremony continue. It could be the one chance we get to recapture these criminals.”

The discussion continued with what they were to do for the ceremony. As it so happened, the entire security detail had to be adjusted and the conditions for attending the coronation completely changed.

Since Cole wouldn’t let Katie participate in any one part of the program, she lost interest in the entire meeting.

And to keep the future Queen from acting on her own, Cole assigned Sandra to protect her. This job came along with the job of keeping her in one place in case any trouble broke out.

‘I wouldn’t be able to fight even if I wanted to,’ she mentally sighed. The silence in her mind was almost deafening. It was only her and her thoughts without even a hint of a reaction from Ashley.

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Lina heard about the news of Crysta's condition while still in the car. Honour told her everything that had happened over the phone while they drove back to the palace.

When the king noticed it was something important, he had the princess turn on the phone's loudspeaker and listened to the entire narration of events from the girl, "I knew I had to stay behind," the king cursed.

"No, honey, you made the right choice to visit the Golden Moon pack. This gave Drake a chance to grow as the crown prince. Not to mention the golden Moon pack had not received you in a long time," the queen tried.

King Davin sat back in his seat. 'What's done is done?' he told himself before speaking up, "Honour, how is Ginger doing? You mentioned she was in the most dangerous of all of them?"

The phone went quiet for a moment before the girl replied. Her voice was almost inaudible and she could have wished to be asked anything else at the time, "Ginger did not make it, your majesty... The doctors checked her stab wound and found that it had hit vital organs and severed important arteries. From the look of the knife wound, it was done intentionally to let the girl bleed out."

"Who would do such a thing?" Martha asked, a hint of disgust in her voice.

"Well, I'm guessing it was the same person that captured them. Crysta has not yet woken up. When she does, I'm hoping she can tell me something. She is the reason we found them after all," Honour said to them.

"How about you wait for the royal family first?" the king asked her.

"Hmm, I'm thinking the royal family would overwhelm the girl. If she's not awake by the time you all arrive, I will talk to her with only one person. Lina," Honour replied firmly.

The king was shocked by the tone the girl used with him, but even more surprised by the fact that his wolf was not offended by her tone. Instead, the wolf was inclined to follow the girl's orders with no questions asked.

"Very well, Honour. Have it your way," the king chuckled, "But you will relay everything useful that she tells you."

Chapter 305 Mother's Pride

The ride back to the palace was excruciating and got even more so when the queen and king refused to drop her at the hospital.

After Honour's display on the phone, Lina soon realised her parents were sulking. Beta Alpha Jackson drove through the palace gates at painstakingly slow speed.

Thankfully, the werewolves did not swarm the royal convoy when they got in, however, Lina was stopped when she reached the door. Her mother's voice was both calm and steeled in a tone she knew all too well.

"Do clean yourself up first, dear. We wouldn't want some of that filth to infect our delta patient," the woman would not meet her eyes, but Lina was sure she was being very serious at the moment.

Gritting her teeth in frustration, Lina exited the car and rushed to her room, ignoring most of the people that stopped to show their respect for the passing royal.

She was in a hurry to get to the hospital, it simply could not wait. Right when she was rounding a corner to get to her room, she caught a glimpse of prince Drake at the end of the hall. The man's face beamed at her, "Little sister, I have something to tell you," Drake yelled out right before she dashed into her room and slammed the door behind her, locking it before he could enter, "That's rude."

"Stay out of my room. I'm going to have a bath, change and go straight to the infirmary," the girl yelled from the inside of her room, working as fast as she could through her actions.

"Well, I do have something to tell you, and like the hospital, it cannot wait," Drake replied, placing his ear to the door of the girl's room. The girl did not respond, but he could pick up the different sounds that came from her bustling about the room.

With the sound of objects falling and furniture tumbling, the prince frowned in worry, 'She's going to hurt herself at this rate. Though she should heal just fine.' Soon enough, he heard another door slam shut, signifying she'd entered the bathroom.

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"What am I supposed to call this?" a voice drew his attention from the door. Slowly, the prince turned to see one of Alpha Jackson standing there with his arms crossed.

The prince felt his cheeks heat up and realised what this looked like. He had his hands propped up against the door and his ear pinned to the thick wood. 'Oh, dear!'

"I am trying to make sure my sister doesn't hurt herself. You saw how she rushed out of the car like accidents were beyond royalty," he smiled nervously.

"I see. Well, considering you have no powers that can make that possible through you listening to whatever it is you think you are listening to, I would advise you to give the girl her privacy," the man spoke slowly and clearly.

"Very well," Drake awkwardly stepped away from the door.

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When Lina was fresh and done dressing, she stepped out of her room and took a breath. Her mind was finally clear, and she broke into a sprint.

Enhanced by her werewolf's abilities and her particular innate aptitude for speed, she sped through the palace before anyone could acknowledge her presence.

As the fastest wolf in existence, a fact that she clearly forgot, the girl was tearing through the halls, leaving everyone barely a chance to get out of the way while she rushed through the halls, 'Please be fine, Crysta,' she silently prayed.

The royal hospital was not far from the palace. In fact, for the safety of the werewolves in the palace, this structure had been joined to the palace at the farthest point of the West Wing. The hospital was

also built into the fence that went around the royal grounds, giving the citizens that chose to use it a way to access it without entering the palace grounds.

The doors to the hospital were finally in sight when a feminine voice resounded within her mind, 'Lina, is that you who's causing a commotion in the palace?' Queen Martha was not amused.

"I'm at the infirmary, mother. You don't have to worry about that now, okay?" the girl replied.

"Lina Jeanie Sirius, who are you talking to?" the woman bellowed through the mind link. The girl cringed at the voice in her head and the weight of anger behind it. It was rarely that the royal family used her unofficial middle name. Lina was reminded of it only when she was about to completely forget it.

"I'm sorry, mum. I didn't mean to... I have to see her, mum. Can I go now?" the woman sighed, allowing the two minds to meld closer with each other. Lina felt her mother's consciousness get more pronounced within her own in a way that was less of an intrusion and more of a warm embrace. Her warmth was always the same, but each time she felt it... It was a new sensation. Her mother was worried and curious.

"Where have you been hiding this worry, my daughter?" the queen's loving voice came through this time. Lina stopped at the doors of the hospital and rested her head on the cold hardwood of the entrance, breathing lightly from the exertion.

The answer was difficult for the girl to convey, but against her nerves, she spoke up, "Before we left for the Golden Moon Pack, I knew something was wrong with Crysta. I suspected she was missing, but..." the girl broke.

"You were taking care of Madeline, Lina. If you hadn't been with us, that girl would never have said anything about what happened to her that night," the queen tried.

"I know that mum, but now Crysta is lying in a hospital bed, Ginger is dead and I wasn't even here. I could have rushed Ginger to the hospital. You know I'm fast enough to do that," the girl argued through the link. Tears threatened to break loose from the looming well, but she blinked them back.

The queen was silent for a while before speaking up, "You're so much like Katie. I guess you're both my daughters after all..." Queen Martha lingered, "You should go see Crysta now."

Before the queen's consciousness withdrew from her own, she got the sense of something unexpected...

Was it... pride!!!

Chapter 306 Dam of Worries

"Thank you," the girl echoed through before rushing into the infirmary in search of the room that exuded her best friend's scent. She didn't even notice the nurse that asked her who she'd come to visit.

She didn't notice the scent she unconsciously followed when she was looking for Crysta's room and when she did reach the room, she blew right through the door and to the bed where Crysta had been, completely missing the amber-eyed girl that had stood up to greet her.

“Crysta...” the rest of her words were stuck, caught in a dam of muddled thoughts and emotions raging within her and leaving her speechless.

“Hey, look at you. You’re crying and sweating really badly. Have you been jogging?” the girl in the bed asked her.

“I was running, not that it matters. Although, I was worried... maybe a little,” the girl replied, faking a smug tone.

“Oh, did you run all the way from the Golden Moon pack?” the delta smirked.

“No, I didn’t. We returned today,” Lina eased up, walking up to the girl’s bed, “How are you feeling?”

“Like I just got left out of an interesting road trip,” she joked. Her light mood calmed Lina’s dam of emotions and thoughts, quieting them down. However, that came with the clarity of seeing her friend’s state...

...and remember that there wasn’t a thing she could have done to protect her.

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Lina was quiet for a moment. Her words were gone. Her eyes moved from Crysta’s face to the machines that had been attached to her hand and further to the different bandages that had been used to patch her up.

She could tell her friend was badly injured. The dry lips told her she’d been dehydrated before the treatment was given to her, “Tears... I never thought you’d worry about me that much... again,” the injured girl didn’t chuckle this time. She looked glad.

“Shut up... There is just something in my eyes,” Lina snapped at her, rubbing the tears from her face. However, the uncoordinated actions only made her look more like a mess and brought her already weak defence crashing down, “I was... so worried. When Honour called... I didn’t know what to do. I almost jumped out of the car, but that wouldn’t have helped one bit.”

“And I don’t think you’re faster than a car,” Crysta replied with a sigh, “I’m fine, Lina. You can stop worrying about me now. Besides, I had Honour who took care of me. There is nothing that doctor can’t diagnose.”

It was only then that Lina noticed her friend in the room. Before Honour could say anything, Lina had her engulfed in a hug, “Honour, thank you for saving her. I’m glad you were here,” Lina thanked her profusely, tears still flowing. For a girl that was said to be lacking in strength, she was far stronger than the average human.

“Yeah, you got that right. If Honour had left, I don’t know what I would have done,” Crysta said in a melancholy tone that caught the attention of the two girls.

“What’s that supposed to mean?” Lina asked.

“She was the one I contacted for help in that cave, but if she hadn’t been here, I don’t think I could have made the connection. I have a lot to tell you, Lina... Honour,” the girl said to them. The two girls brought chairs closer to the bed and got comfortable while the girl got ready to tell what happened to her.

“Take your time, Crysta and don’t force yourself to say anything you don’t want to,” Lina said to her.

“It’s okay. I think I can talk to the two of you without having much trouble,” she forced a smile, “Who else would worry for me this much? Not even my parents love me the way my best friend did.”

“That’s... that’s why you wouldn’t give up?” Lina was beyond words. The two of them had been best friends long before they stopped and Crysta had been trying her best to get that back.

“Having friends the way I did when I sided with Liam and Wyatt. It’s not the same. Not even close. Friends don’t have to be many or hang at whatever you say and do. I missed all that and don’t deserve to have it back. I wasn’t going to give up until I was certain you wanted nothing to do with me,” Crysta explained.

Lina couldn’t help but chuckle to herself, “I missed you too, Crysta.”

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When the tears had finally stopped flowing and the two girls had calmed down, Crysta began her narration, “It was after the slumber party. That morning as I was going back home. I met Ginger on my way there. The girl asked for us to have a private conversation and also asked that we go somewhere that we would not be overheard.

There are not many places where that is possible in a world of werewolves. She took me to the back of the palace where we were to talk. I thought she was acting weird, but then again, the two of them had been acting weird since I started supporting the princess...

I should have listened to my hunches then.”

.....The morning after the slumber party.....

Crysta had followed Ginger through to the palace and the girl had taken her into the woods behind the palace, stopping her walk at the far corner of the woods, a suspicious place for anyone to be holding a conversation.

“Hey Crysta, anything you would like to tell me?” Ginger asked in a tone that Crysta could not quite place. The girl had her back turned to the delta and without a way to view her face, Crysta was oblivious to the girl’s emotions. As it so happened, Ginger had cut herself off from the mind link, which made this even more suspicious.

“None that I know of. We could have just gone to my room, you know. I doubt anyone can hear us from over there. Why did we have to come here?” Crysta asked.

“You were at her house, weren’t you? The house of that weakling. Admit it, Crysta,” the girl argued with her.

“And what if I was?” Crysta replied, “Does it suddenly make me a criminal?”

“No, it doesn’t. It makes you a traitor and a hypocrite. What do you see in them all of a sudden, Crysta?” Ginger sounded genuinely baffled.

"I see the friend that I lost, Ginger. Nothing more than that. I see an invaluable friend that I've been giving hell for all this time and she's never once thought to do the same and yet she's clearly more powerful," the girl replied.

"Oh, is that so? She must be powerful indeed to have you in this kind of delusion. It was you that declared how weak she truly was," the girl sounded dejected, as though she had given up on her argument, "You've been brainwashed, dear Crysta."

"What are you saying, Ging... er?" a sharp pain radiated through the back of the girl's head, immediately tingling her vision with dark spots. Dizziness invaded her senses as she fell to the ground and lost consciousness.

Chapter 307 Over the Edge

"When I woke up next, I had a pounding headache and everything was spinning. At first, I didn't know what was happening. My memory didn't return as fast as I would have wanted it.

So, I thought we were all there together. Those were the other two voices I was hearing. Ginger was talking to me. Bree was yelling and nothing was making sense, but then... It started to make sense when I saw Ginger standing over me with no chains holding her," Crysta described.

"She was the one that had organised everything. At least that's what I had expected. She was sure of her mission. So sure that she told me how everything was supposed to play out. How she was planning on using the rogue to... to kill Lina the moment she came to save me."

"Rogue... there was no rogue when we saved you yesterday," Honour said to her.

"That's the other thing I wanted to tell you about. Ginger never stood a chance of being saved. The rogue she thought was on her side stabbed her in the back and killed her," Crysta told them.

"Was this before or after you had contacted me?" Honour asked.

"I was only able to contact you because the rogue told me how, but she made sure the girl she'd stabbed would bleed out or would at least be near death by the time the rescue party found us," Crysta explained.

"I don't understand what you're saying, Crysta. Are you saying a rogue saved your life or am I misinterpreting something?" Lina asked, more confused than Crysta intended her to be.

"Ginger was being unreasonable. She just wanted to see you dead and was willing to do anything. Even side with a rogue, but she should have known a rogue wouldn't have let us live at all.

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I got lucky, I guess. The rogue she chose was not a usual one. Her eyes glowed blue when she felt like it and turned back to red at will," the girl narrated. Her audience remained quiet and as she was about to continue a voice interrupted them.

"The woman killed Ginger... supposedly because of her despicable crime, then told Crysta all she had to do to contact one of two people," they all turned to see Bree standing at the door frame.

The girl had a look of defeat in her eyes, "I would have never thought Ginger capable of that. I know we both hated Lina, but I didn't know she would go to such lengths. After everything we did to try to make Crysta forget about you. Honestly, what do you see in this girl? And why is Lina worried about someone who isn't worth her time? Was it not enough for her to humiliate you for years? Why value a traitor? It doesn't work like that."

"You were able to tell that I value her. If you could see past that, then you have your reason why it should work both ways," Lina chuckled.

The girl did not return her warm reply. Instead, she stared coldly at the princess and shrugged, "Rest up, Crysta. I can handle the rest of the story."

"How can I trust that you won't twist the story?" Crysta asked, "I'll finish it myself. Thanks for offering."

The air seemed to shift in response to the answer as Bree searched for her mind for a reply, "Very well. I'll let the three of you be. Sorry for interrupting," the girl was gone before they could think of stopping her. Crysta sank into her bed, a bad feeling turning in her stomach.

"Is there anything else you know about the rogue that captured you?" the girl asked.

"Yes, I know something about her. She gave me a message to deliver to you," Crysta replied, "The woman called herself Amanda and she was one of the rogue king's generals. She had come to Sirius on her own in search of someone. While she was searching, the girl found her and blackmailed her into helping out with the insane plan to kill the princess of Sirius, claiming the girl was an abomination to the royals.

I asked the woman who she was looking for and she told me she was in search of the king's uncle, Sean Sirius," Lina gasped at the mention of her great uncle. They had tried visiting him and for someone who was a spy for the rogues, he was far too comfortable in his cell.

"What else did she tell you about my uncle?" the girl asked.

"She said I was to ask the king to release him by order of the moon goddess. I don't know what that is supposed to mean, but she made it clear that I had to get the message to the king like that. It was all too confusing, not to mention the headache I had at the moment I was hearing all that," the girl replied.

Lina's curiosity seemed to peak higher than she had initially suspected. She knew there was more to her uncle than she'd been told, but now that she was hearing his name coming from a rogue that had saved Crysta's life, she was curious as to what the man had to hide from the king.

"We'll get the message to the king for you. Get all the rest you can, okay?" Lina said to the girl in the bed.

"Why has everyone been telling me that one thing?" Crysta replied, "I can do what I want, damn it."

"Don't complain..."

"No, I have to. I have been cooped up in here for far too long. At least tell me how your trip went. I need something to get this mind moving or else I'll lose my mind in here," Crysta cut her off.

“Alright then... I’ll tell you how it went. After all, I was meant to tell you about it anyway,” Lina chuckled, settling back into her seat and starting her own detailed narration of the events that happened in the Golden Moon Pack. Madeline’s story had Crysta silently wishing she hadn’t asked about the trip after all.

“How is Madeline doing?”

“I’m not sure, but the king had a room chosen for... Oh, I don’t even know where her room is. I came rushing straight here,” Lina groaned. The princess had barely paid anyone any attention once she’d heard of Crysta’s condition. Her mind had been completely overtaken by the need to reach her friend and make sure she was okay.

“Yeah, no kidding. You didn’t even see me when you walked in,” Honour couldn’t resist the scowl that appeared on her face.

“I’m sorry about that. I didn’t even notice I was causing that much of an inconvenience for everyone.”

“Don’t tell me you came here running as fast as you do when in the forest,” Crysta groaned.

“I didn’t... If I’d done that, I would have been able to make any sharp turns. I probably would have caused a serious accident if I had moved any faster than I did,” the girl mumbled to herself... which was entirely beside the point.

“I finally see the resemblance between you and Katie,” Honour piped up.

“Huh, really, what is it?” the girl asked her.

“You’re both impossible to convince once you’ve made up your minds,” Honour beamed. She’d stumbled upon a golden discovery. Crysta wouldn’t stop laughing at the observation.

“It’s like talking to a brick wall. I’ve witnessed it before as well,” she clarified.

“Hey... that’s not like us at all,” Lina tried, but it was all in vain. The girls had already made up their minds on the two royals. ‘Is it a bad thing or not?’ she couldn’t help, but think to herself.

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Exiting the infirmary, Bree continued walking with a destination in mind. Her hands wouldn’t stop curling into cruel fists in frustration. The genuine laughter and tears that had come from the hospital room only worked to haunt her mind. ‘After everything we’ve been through, you would still side with her. I know Ginger took it too far, but her emotions were justified in my book,’ the girl argued with herself.

Finally making it to the entrance to the dungeon, the girl bowed respectfully to the green-eyed guard that protected the metallic entrance, “I would like to visit someone please.”

“Oh, who might that be?” the man, who had tried his best to ignore the loitering girl finally gave her his attention.

“I would like to visit the king’s brother, his highness, Sean Sirius,” the girl said to the guard.

The man’s eyes widened in surprise before getting serious, “Oh? Do you have approval from the king to make such a visit?”

“Do I need the king’s permission to pay him a visit that badly?” she asked, doing her best to keep her calm.

“Yes, you do. Without it, you can’t even get within hearing distance of the prince’s cell,” the man replied sternly, however, now he was curious to know why a random girl wanted to see the man all of a sudden. It was not like the prince had anyone he was particularly familiar with. He kept to himself and very easily swatted any attempts made in his direction.

Even the guards that visited him for his routine check were intimidated by his oppressive aura. Those who tried to make any conversation immediately regretted uttering a single word. He was nothing like the rest of the Sirius family.

The girl briskly walked away from the dungeon without uttering another word and was standing before the king’s office as soon as her legs could get her.

Her mind was working hard for a reason she could give the king for wanting to visit his brother. The woman that had helped them escape gave her all the information she needed to handle herself better than her departed friend... Bree had taken the time to make all the necessary deductions from what she witnessed in the cave... She was almost certain her plan was going to work.

The door clicked open, allowing her to enter, “Lina, I was about to... Oh, Bree? Surprise seeing you here. To what do I owe the pleasure?” the king asked the girl, setting down the papers he’d been sorting and paying all attention to the girl before him.

That’s how the king had always been. Behind the seemingly self-serving nature that he exuded with his flashy suits, he took everyone in his kingdom to be a high priority. Bree had only witnessed it a few times and had come to love their king for it.

Even now as she looked at him, she recognized the kind benevolent king of the Sirius empire, ‘Your kindness might be your greatest weakness,’ she bitterly thought to herself.

Chapter 308 Blackmail

A reason to visit the prince... A reason to visit the prince... A reason to visit the prince... The statement kept going through the girl’s head that she completely forgot that the king was waiting for her to speak.

King Davin had to snap her out of her thoughts, “Bree, are you okay? I was told you made a full recover...”

“I would like permission to visit your brother, your majesty,” the girl rushed, missing the fact that the king was in the middle of his speech.

A frown ran across the king’s face, “Why is that?” the king asked her.

There weren’t many things the girl could tell the king that would get her his approval. The mere fact that the prince didn’t associate with anyone made this request completely out of place. If she chose to lie to him completely, it would be impossible to hide her deceit when he had command over the entire pack link... So she went with an altered version. One that would be almost undetectable “I just want to know why he did what he did. I want closure... and I want to hear it from him,” the girl said to the king.

The king was quiet for a moment, trying to think over what the girl was saying. Her request must have been the weirdest he'd heard all week, but after what she had been through, he was more inclined to listen to what she had to say. He couldn't help the curiosity that clawed at the back of his mind, "Why can't you wait for his trial just like everyone else?"

The girl's heartbeat went into overdrive. The king wasn't letting up like she had hoped he would. "When I was captured, I overheard something. I'm not sure what I heard, but I would like to ask him about it. Please your majesty. It won't take me long to ask him," the girl tried once more, "It might be nothing considering I was scared out of my mind. It was so scary. I thought I might die from starvation. Not to mention after losing..."

"Alright alright... I will let you visit him, but you only get five minutes to talk to him," the man sighed, pulling a form out of one of the drawers behind his desk. He filled in the blanks before stamping it following through with his signature.

The girl took the form from him and bowed in thanks before exiting the room. She barely noticed the presence of the people in the room. Queen Martha had been seated on the sofa, paying close attention to the girl's eyes as she spoke, "Something feels off with that girl. There is so much going through her mind."

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"Getting captured can do that to you. She almost died," the king replied sadly.

"Yeah, I guess you're right. But why does it feel like it was something else... almost like she was consumed by hatred?" the queen searched the mind link and found that the girl had blocked her emotions from flowing into the mind link. Respecting her privacy, she decided against a mental invasion, "Just to be sure, I'll alert the guards to be weary of her actions."

Bree returned to the guard at the entrance of the dungeon and held the form out for him to hold. The guard looked between the form and the girl. "You weren't even gone for thirty minutes." The man exclaimed, grabbing the form and searching it for any sign of forgery, but it proved authentic. Just then, a transmission came through from the queen that notified the girl had indeed received the confirmation from the king.

"Just who are you, girl?" the guard narrowed her eyes at the girl. She had amber eyes... a rank lower than he was and yet she had gotten closer to the king than he could ever hope to... under an hour no less.

"You don't seem to understand the king one bit," the girl replied, walking past the guard, "I would like the key to Prince Sean's cell, please."

"Oh, that stays with me," the guard replied, holding up a lantern and gesturing forward, "If you would just follow me." The girl gritted her teeth and balled her fists. Withholding her discontentment, she went along with the man's words.

The man led the girl through the dungeon until they got to the large metal door that was the only known entrance to the prince's dungeon. Unlike the other cells, this one did not allow anyone to look into it

and was locked more securely than the others. "Why is he locked up in such a manner? He's royalty, you know." The girl snapped at the guard.

The man only chuckled, "Compared to the other prisoners, he is living the dream. Hey, don't argue with me. King's orders." He replied, opening the door and walking in with two more guards before her, "Stay outside a moment. It's protocol for any civilian visiting him... not that he gets any visitors at all."

The girl waited impatiently as the guards worked inside the cell. She heard the sound of chains, but no complaints came from the inside of the room. After a short while, they stepped out, "You have five minutes to speak with him. After that, we'll be hauling you out of there against your will." With that, she was left alone to enter the cell. On the inside of the cell, she found the prince chained at his wrists that had been raised so he would not be able to try anything dangerous.

There was no doubt that anything he tried would plunge his system with a dose of wolfsbane.

"Ah, so you're the reason my novel was so rudely interrupted. And yet I was getting to the good part," the royal spoke up when she'd just entered. The inside of the room was neat and on the comfortable side for a prison cell. There was no window in the entire room... just good air conditioning. The bed he was seated on was even better than the one the girl slept on in her home.

He was well fed and had a pile of books on a side table that she was sure was constantly growing taller with each passing moon.

"You don't even know who I am, do you?" the girl snapped at him.

"Am I supposed to know who you are? That would be such an unreasonable request if I was to remember everyone I ever met... and one hell of a chore," the man chuckled, "What brings you here? I don't even understand why Davin would let someone like you through. Has he really grown that soft?"

"You're nothing like the king at all. How are you two even related, to begin with?" the girl spat at him.

Sean's expression went dark for a moment. It was like she'd hit a nerve, however, the girl couldn't imagine him acting any other way than he was now. He was the insufferable royal that everyone knew as the Lone Wolf.

The man was quiet for a moment, narrowing his eyes at her and finally spoke seriously, "That look in your eye. You're angry at someone. What brings you here, girl?"

The girl looked to the door and noticed she was being listened to. Through the mind link, she said, "You're going to help me get back at the royal family."

"Oh, what makes you think I would ever help you achieve such a thing?" the man asked her.

"Information is a very valuable thing, you know. Does the name Amanda mean anything to you?" the girl smirked and watched as his eyes widened in recognition of the name she'd just uttered.

"It does mean something to you. I can pretty much piece together everything from here on. You're in league with the rogues for reasons very simple to werewolf kind..."

There aren't many things in the world that can break the loyalty of a wolf to his pack...

In fact, it might be the only thing in the world besides family that could have caused you to do what you did...

Love... Isn't it?" the girl asked him. The question was rhetorical.

Sean's expression gave it all away. The man that was always composed around everyone had just shown emotion at the mention of a single name. At that moment, it was like she'd just cracked the hardest shell in the known world. Sean almost looked ordinary, if not for the bright blue gleam in his eyes.

"What makes you think I'm going to help you?" the royal asked her, however, this time he wasn't in a mood to laugh. His eyes scanned her face constantly. It made Bree's skin crawl.

"It doesn't matter to me at all anyway. I will get back at the royal family and you will help me do it. Amanda recently abducted me, you know. She told my friend to deliver a lot of information to the king. I played dumb and remained 'unconscious' the entire time. I know more than you think I could, so I would suggest you listen to what I have to say. If you don't I'll just twist all this information in any way that I want and you could find yourself facing a death sentence before long," the girl replied with a steeled expression. Of course, she said all this through the mind link. The advantage of doing it this way though... was that Prince Sean could feel her conviction flow into her mind along with.

What he couldn't tell, however, was if she was bluffing. He wanted to invade her mind, but the strain that would take was more than the wolfsbane in his shackles would let him handle.

Sean stared at the girl before her. The look in her eyes was not foreign to him. He'd seen it before. She meant what she was saying and might have been willing to go to great lengths to achieve what she wanted to, but she didn't have enough to sway him just yet. His mind questioned how much she knew about Amanda and she kept this hidden just as well, "You know nothing."

The girl smirked, "You sound so foolish right now. I'll let you in on one of the little secrets I heard..." the girl whispered something to him through the mind link. The smirk on her face wouldn't leave long even after she was done talking.

Sean gasped upon hearing her words. The reply only proved she knew more than she was letting on even more. It wasn't like him to get cornered by someone so... 'powerless', "What do you want?"

"Now we're getting somewhere," the girl's dark smile grew even wider... if that was at all possible.

"It's quite simple really. I want to get back at the royals for what they've done to me, so I will have you take me to Amanda and the rogues," the girl replied. The prince paused, but upon remembering her threats, allowed her to proceed.

"I can't get out of this cell," he replied.

"You leave the escape to me. I will come to get you out of here at midnight, so make sure you're ready by then," the girl said to him, "My time is almost up now. We'll talk about the rest when we are far from here." A knock came at the door, admitting the guard into the cell.

"Your time is up," the guard said to her.

“Oh, I hadn’t noticed,” the girl replied. Sean wondered where the tear that flowed down her cheek had come from, “I can’t believe you would conspire with the rogues to kill your own niece. I believed in you, prince Sean, but... but...”

“Was that really true?” the guard asked.

“Yes, it was. I had only come here so he would tell me that the rumours were true. This man truly is a villainous criminal that should be punished for his crimes. To think someone would want princess Katie to be killed when she was only an infant and a hope to the entire kingdom.”

“This way, miss,” the guard wrapped an arm around her and led her out of the cell. It was only Sean that noticed the girl had already set her plan into motion, “I hope the king gives you a punishment fitting of your crimes.” The guard spat, getting worked up from the state of the girl displaying crocodile tears. The guards freed him from his chains and locked his room. The novel by the king’s bed no longer seemed interesting after what he’d just heard.

‘You don’t get it, do you, little girl? I promised him I wouldn’t leave this cell...’ this thought wouldn’t leave the confines of his cell... and he was sure even if she had heard him, she wouldn’t care one bit.

Chapter 309 Letter to the King

Lina spent most of the time she could spare with Crysta doing everything the girl asked of her and even called on one of her servants to deliver her tablet from which they watched a few of their favourite shows.

The three girls had decided to forget about finals that were only the next day and chose to simply have some fun. Madeline, who asked that they didn’t remind her of the topic, joined them in the fun. It wasn’t like either of them hadn’t been serious with their studies for a moment. A failing grade seemed like the only thing they had to avoid in light of what they’d gone through that weekend.

When Crysta had finally fallen asleep, Lina leaned back into the chair, “What now?” Madeline asked them. The girl had come looking for them and chosen to hang out with them when she realised they hadn’t filled her in on their agenda once the delta fell asleep.

“Well, now we have to return to the king and report everything Crysta told us. That was what Honour agreed to after all,” Lina replied, “It’s such a hassle to give reports.”

“This one is important though. Who would have known the king’s brother would have such secrets bottled up?” Honour wondered. The situation was getting more and more complicated...

“Yeah, it’s scary. I wonder what his reasons for conspiring with the rogues are and the woman Crysta mentioned. What is she? Can she do the same thing Madeline can with her eyes?” Lina asked Honour.

“Why are you asking me? I have no idea. Madeline, can you change the colour of your eyes to blue?” Honour asked.

“No, I can only change them to yellow which is the colour that every average werewolf should have. You can’t just switch your eyes to a rank that’s higher or basically not yours. The colour that your eyes shine represents how much power you have from the goddess of the moon. From what I’ve learnt. The behaviour of that woman’s eye colour is completely new to me,” the girl explained.

“Oh, I see,” Honour answered. The theory only confused her more since she was the weakest werewolf she knew about. It didn’t make any sense to her at all.

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“Let’s just get going already...” she concluded, forcing Lina, the immovable statue, out of her seat and out of the infirmary.

Outside, the moon was already climbing through the sky, making its trek across the starry sky. The girls had barely noticed how time had moved while they were in the infirmary. Lina just hadn’t seemed ready to leave the room and they had stayed there until Crysta had fallen asleep. She seemed to be making a quick recovery. Even her mood had gotten severely better. However, this would not be the case once she heard about Ginger’s situation.

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The king opened the door, admitting his daughter, her best friend and the girl with grey/amber eyes in. They locked the door behind them and took their place in the congregation that had gathered, “I’m glad you could make it, you three. As it so happens, there is trouble in both kingdoms. While our kingdom seems to be in the clear, Lycaon is in more danger.”

“What happened? Is Katie okay?” Lina rushed.

“Yes, Lina. Your sister is fine. I honestly wouldn’t be that worried about her,” the king replied, “Under normal circumstances, that is... It seems Katie wasn’t able to detect anything. I know we should rely on her, but it is worrisome to know that the girl is only growing weaker by the second.”

“I’m not following, your majesty,” Honour was the one to speak this time.

“From what Thomas has told us, Katie has not been seen exerting her powers like she normally would. While it’s too close to the time of her hospitalisation to tell what’s going on with her, it is starting to cause some level of worry to go through the hunters. Katie hasn’t shown any signs of recovering to her former state for a week now. She can walk and carry out her activities as normal, but she gets tired much faster now and has numerous moments of weakness.

When that is coupled with the recent events in the Lycaon capital, it is safe to assume that things will only take a turn for the worst at the coronation at the end of this week,” the king explained.

“Cole is going to be crowned king? What’s going to happen at the coronation? Is someone targeting him?” Lina asked.

“The criminals that escaped during the dungeon break have banded together. At first, it was abductions, but now they have made it clear that they are going to attack the coronation ceremony,” the king confirmed.

Lina was quiet for a moment. As it so happened, the others in the room knew of these developments and didn’t raise any questions, “We shall discuss the guest list for the coronation later, but for now, we would like to hear what you heard from Crysta,” the king turned his attention to the girls.

“Oh, yeah, Crysta. She mentioned the name of the rogue that captured her along with the absurd colour of her eyes,” the girl mentioned.

“What does anything have to do with her eyes? Was she one of the rogue king’s generals?” the king asked.

“It seemed that way, but Crysta saw something else that confused her. The woman’s eyes flashed blue when she wanted them to do so and when they did, she also gave the girl a message to deliver to the king of Sirius,” the room grew tense at the mention of a message that was directed to the king. This was not what any of them had expected to hear at all... A message from the rogues.

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Outside, the guard that had been taking care of protecting the dungeon was packing his bag, excitement written all over his face, “I finally get to go home after a hard day’s work,” the man sang to himself.

One of the guards on the inside yawned, “Well, there he goes again. Can you skip the part where you talk about your daughter this time?” he yelled to the departing colleague.

“I am not the one that decided the lot of y’all should remain single,” the man replied as smugly as he could.

“Just because you found your mate in high school doesn’t mean you should rub it in our faces, okay?” another man replied, walking towards the dungeons to replace the dotting father, “Honestly, you’re hopeless sometimes.”

“On the contrary, my night shift comrade, I am full of hope. Hope that my little one grows up into a beautiful strong woman that will bring joy to her father and no one else,” the man was on cloud nine and there was no bringing him down from there.

“You realise when your daughter grows up, she’ll also find a mate like you did in high school and will start...”

“Don’t you dare, Daniel? She will always be Daddy’s little girl,” he snapped before becoming happy once more, “Now goodbye single males. I will go and visit my lovely family. Do take an example from me and raise a happy family as well. Feel free to come to me for advice as well. I am a master.” He winked before skipping away from the dungeon entrance, leaving his replacement to reorganise the office for his night shift.

“That’s one jolly werewolf. Perhaps far too jolly,” Daniel chuckled to himself. Just as he was about to settle in, he heard a voice coming from the office’s other side.

“Where is the guard I showed my clearance earlier?” a girl spoke from the outside the office of the head guard.

“Huh,” the man looked out to the girl standing on the other side. She was beautiful, however, she was nothing like the woman he’d known to be his friend’s mate, “I don’t know who you are, but I think you missed him. Would you like to leave him a message? It would be odd for you to bother him through the mind link at this hour of the night?”

“Okay then... would you write my message down then?” the girl asked him.

“Very well. Let me just get a paper and pen. Damn you, Troy. You’re one hell of a player,” the man chuckled to himself as he finally got a pen and paper from the drawer, “Very well... what would you like to tell him?”

“Well, I would like him to know that he stood me up the other night and I will be giving him another chance to make up for it tomorrow. If he doesn’t show up then... I will...” the girl went quiet. The man thought he felt a pinch at the back of his neck when she stopped talking, but the quick healing his wolf provided him allowed him to look past it.

He looked up and asked him. As soon as he stared at the girl, her image split in two and the world began to spin, “What will you do to him if he... Woah... What’s going on?”

“Perhaps you had a lot to drink. Are you even allowed to drink on the job?” the girl asked him, watching him with a smirk.

“I don’t... I don’t drink,” the man said, panting as exhaustion racked his body, “Damn it... You did this, didn’t you?” The girl went through the door and into his office. The other guards that saw her getting into his office only smirked and continued to stand guard as diligently as they had been trained to be.

If only they’d known what was really happening inside.

The girl on the inside held the man and placed his head down at his table. The wolf didn’t have the energy to resist her after the drug she’d just used against him. Searching through the room, she found the key to the cell she was searching for.

From her small handbag, she found the small devices she’d carried with her. ‘Wolfsbane vapour... This stuff cost me a fortune. Just a sniff of it will have all the wolves in here struggling for their lives. It’s not lethal, so they will be fine...’ she thought to herself for a moment, ‘I don’t care anyway. Even if they die, it won’t mean much to me by the time I’m done.’

With that, the girl stepped out of the room and let the devices she was holding roll out of her hand letting out deadly puffs of smoke that tinged the eyes of the guards far before they had the time to react. The girl covered her face with a gas mask and walked through the dungeon with another of her smoke grenades in one hand and a key for one cell in particular.

‘All too soft...’

Chapter 310 Wave of Distress

Sean lay on his bed, his keen sense of hearing picking up on a load of the tumbling bodies on the other side of the door that kept him confined in the dungeon.

It was about time the girl would be breaking him out. The man narrowed his eyes at the door, searching for some other reason to stay within the cell. ‘Perhaps, I could kill the girl once she opened the door...’ the thought turned his stomach.

Sighing, the prince’s expression softened, ‘I blame them for being soft... but I guess I’m not so different. I’m sorry, nephew. I promised to keep from breaking out of this prison, but depending on how much this girl knows, she now has the upper hand. I will find another way to prove my innocence to you...’

His thoughts were interrupted by the clicking sound within the lock of the door. Knowing that there weren't guards on the other side of the door brought him chills.

Immediately the lock of the wolfsbane-lined door clicked open. The mind link connecting him to the wolf on the other side opened. Unbridled darkness and rage filled the being that pushed the door open.

A thick white gas wafted in through the crack of the door. Covering her face was a black gas mask that hid the girl's face. The werewolf he'd met earlier walked in and tossed a gas mask onto the bed. "Put that on..."

The man picked up the mask and placed it on his face, his thoughts continuing, seemingly undisturbed, '...the day that I will prove to you that I am indeed innocent.'

The man fastened the mask as instructed and followed the girl out of the cell that the king had placed him in. What he saw on his way out assured him of the girl's conviction.

The numerous guards that kept the dungeons safe were all lying on the ground unconscious. A thick white gas covered the entire floor. 'Is it fine for them to be lying in the gas like that?' he wondered. Bree, on the other hand, walked by them without paying them any attention.

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She didn't have that much power physically, but that didn't stop her from storming the dungeons and breaking him out. There was no doubt in his mind that they were going to leave the palace without any trouble, "Block your connection to the mind link. That way, they won't track us down," the girl ordered.

The prince wondered where her genuine respect for the royals had been hidden. "I can't do that. Have you any idea how painful it is to be cut off from the mind link?" the royal replied, almost dramatically.

"I know what it's like and I also know that it's not something that bothers you," the girl turned to him viciously. He could have sworn she was scowling.

What frightened the royal, however, was not her tone, but the fact that she'd read right through him once more. 'Just how much does she know about me?' he wondered. "If it bothers you at all, you can keep the connection to be open, but that's all you get."

They were out of the dungeons and out of palace grounds with next to no resistance. Anyone that tried to approach the girl would get a shot of some substance to the neck that would knock out the werewolves almost instantly.

By leaps and bounds, they were deep into the forest with only the moon to provide them with any kind of light under the cover of the trees. The royal couldn't help but look back at the palace as it was diminished by distance. They had actually escaped. The panicking sounds that had filled the palace when they were about to escape had not even bothered Bree for a moment.

Prince Sean was almost sure he heard her mutter under her breath. It was a statement he'd said himself numerous times, "Soft... all of them..." Whether it was melancholy or bitter hatred behind her words, the prince could not tell.

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Lina continued the narration of her story to the king, "Amanda wanted the king of Sirius to know that Sean Sirius was innocent. She knew you wouldn't believe her though, so she offered to free Bree and Crysta as a show of goodwill, but Ginger... the traitor was meant to die. There was nothing that convince her otherwise..."

"What was her reason for making such a decision?" the king found himself asking before his daughter could finish.

Honour took over from there, "It was because Ginger's half-baked reason for abducting Crysta was so that she could kill Lina," this sent a wave of silence through the room, Honour then continued, "She wanted the rogue to kill Lina the moment she showed up to save Crysta.

Beyond that, the girl hadn't thought it through that clearly. It seemed as though her hatred for the girl was far more rooted than mere reasoning."

The royals listening were gripped with the fear that there was one amongst them with this much hatred towards them.

"Is that all the rogue had to say?" the king asked.

"She also mentioned she would wish for a time to come when the entire family could be together again... and be truly happy," the girl replied, however, her tone sounded unsure of what this meant.

"It's getting exhausting to keep track of the number of people that can fake having a royal's power," the king rubbed his temples.

"Crysta didn't seem to think she was dangerous. In fact, the girl's wolf was inclined to sympathise with the rogue that had captured them," Lina continued.

"And Crysta told you this herself?" the king asked.

"No, she didn't. It's just from my own observation," the girl replied nervously. Knowing this information without consent would have been an invasion of privacy, however, she felt the need to speak her mind.

"Very well," the king replied, completely missing the admittance to the crime and taking a moment to think through everything he'd been told.

Just then, a large wave of distress rang through the mind link. The queen was at her feet in a second, gripped by the thunderous wave of pain coming from numerous werewolves through the mind link. The king, on the other hand, searched for the location of the distress, but couldn't find it.

"Who and where are they?" Drake yelled, barely able to hear his own voice, searching his own mind as well. Honour and Madeline looked about the room, unable to hear this same distress signal as intensely as the royals.

"What's happening?" Mady tried but got no answer.

"They fall unconscious before we are able to detect their locations. Someone is using wolfsbane on them," the king confirmed, "Alpha Jackson, confirm whether we are under attack and make quick work of the situation."

The beta alpha was out the door and on his way hunting down the source of distress and neutralising the situation. "I don't think he will be able to find them," Honour announced.

"Do you have an idea where they might be?" the king asked her.

"No, I don't, but perhaps we might be able to figure it out if we ask werewolves located in different places of the palace and the capital. It could help narrow it down," Honour offered her advice, rubbing circles into Lina's back. The girl looked on the verge of collapsing from the intense mental invasion.

The queen was silent for a while albeit in anticipation of something, "Darling, what did happen to that girl?"

"What girl?" the queen asked.

"What was her name?" the queen strained, "the one who used to hang around Crysta."

"Oh, you mean Ginger or Bree...?"

"I meant to say, Bree," the queen corrected, the moment she heard the name.

"She went to the dungeons to check on Sean, but that's about all I know of the last time she was spotted," the king responded.

"I would have thought she would be with these three, but she wasn't with them, so naturally, I chose not to worry over nothing, but..." the queen paused, "if she's anything like Ginger, we might just be ignoring something very problematic."

Lina was the first out of the office, rushing faster than anyone could follow even with their eyes. Her speed was unmatched in the whole kingdom and they could only follow with no hope of catching up, "Lina, be careful. Rushing in first won't help do much good if you only end up in the same situation. Don't forget that you were the target in the first place."

"They have been poisoned, mother. I can't just sit back," the girl cut her mother off, rushing to the dungeons. She was at the entrance by the time she was done talking to her mother, despite the great distance between the two places.

The queen thought back to a girl who'd rushed into a similar situation and got surrounded by hundreds of wolves. It was like it was happening all over again.

However, the similarities between her two daughters didn't end there. They were also the stubbornest people she knew when it came to saving lives. Trying to talk some sense into her daughter would do her no good, "Be careful," the woman whispered through the mind link.

The rest of the royal family made it several moments later and gasped at the sight before them. A light smoke that tinged their eyes and nostrils the moment they inhaled it held them back from the dungeons, "Why would anyone..." the king stopped his own question in half when he came to the realisation what was happening, "So he escaped... even after suggesting he wasn't going to do so."

"Darling..." the queen tried, sensing his rage, but he was already too far gone.

“No, Martha. It’s enough. All of it... I’m at my limit. I gave him the benefit of the doubt. Sean is a traitor. What more can he say after something like this? It’s clear to me now. It has been the entire time. I have just been ignoring the truth this whole time,” the king was livid. The pain that came from the wolves of his pack only intensified his anger.

Honour made it later than the royal family had. She was even slower than them... and Madeline was not so far ahead of her. Without noticing what was keeping the royals back, she walked through to the entrance of the dungeon and began to check the pulse of the wolves that lay inside, “They are still alive, but barely. They’ve inhaled too much of the gas. We need to get them to the hospital quickly.”

Micah and Thomas appeared out of nowhere and rushed through to help, breaking the royals from their shocked trances. Honour’s actions seemed to have spurred them into action.

They carried the guards out of the dungeon and placed them out clear from the smoke where the royals, along with betas and deltas that had come at Alpha Jackson’s command, worked to get them to the infirmary. In total, they ended up counting a hundred and eleven werewolves that had been affected by the gas. “Your majesty, what about the prisoners that were affected as well?”

“All the prisoners that are werewolves are to be isolated and medical equipment taken to their cells where they will be treated and nursed back to health once the gas has been cleared out,” the king replied, setting that task to Alpha Phillip.

It was deep into the night when Lina and her friends finally left the infirmary and slept in her room. The next day was meant to be finals at their school and they’d barely got time to get their sleep in. ‘What’s going on? Is it because of Katie’s state or is it because she’s not around anymore?’ Lina couldn’t help but ask herself. When her sister made an appearance in Sirius, the kingdom started to feel more lively with her around. The girl, without much effort, commanded order while keeping her surroundings calm with her free-spirited nature.

“Rest up, Lina,” a voice crawled into her mind. A hand brushed the hair on her head, soothing her deeper into a slumber, “Just like your sister.” The girl’s eyes fluttered open and she stared at the queen. She had come to check on her daughter and found her tossing about in her bed. Her thoughts were a mess and completely far from what she was supposed to be focused on.

“Mum, I...”

“Hush, Lina... You have exams tomorrow. You’re not above the rules of your school, you know. Even though we took a lot of valuable time from you,” the queen cooed.

The girl sighed and bit the inside of her cheek. The queen chuckled lightly, “Just one question.”

It was an unfair offer. She had so much to ask. She couldn’t possibly summarise it all in one question. Thinking it through, she chose the one at the top of her mind, “Will they be fine? The werewolves that were poisoned.”

The queen smiled at her daughter, “Yes, my dear. They will be fine.” Lina’s heart slowed down if only a little... With that, she closed her eyes and set her mind at ease. With the queen in her room, it wasn’t long before she was fast asleep... In the presence of her greatest safe haven.