

## Chosen 331

### Chapter 331 Suspicious Gang Of Thugs

Deep in the forest, a group of suspicious beings walked through the woods, their movements barely perceptible. From how smoothly they navigated the woods and based on the confidence in their stride, it could be deduced that they knew where they were going.

To an oblivious observer, they didn't seem to be going to the palace, however, it was their target. Their relaxed journey led them to a deep pit with fresh dirt forming its edges from the digging that had been taking place there.

The leader of this suspicious group repulsively stepped onto a mound of dirt, cursing under his breath. Standing over the edge of the deep dark pit, he waited. 'Being a parent is a true liability. Makes sense that the rogues were able to crush those hunters in the last war.'

The leader's thoughts were interrupted by the sound of panting coming from inside the pit. He took a step back and watched a man climb out of the dark pit with a shovel in hand.

Using all his energy, the new arrival lifted himself to the rim of the pit and fell on the dirt panting. His clothes were covered in dirt and he was filthy from the hard labour he'd been doing. Blisters could be seen on his palms. Having formed and ruptured due to the hard labour.

However, all that hadn't slowed him down in his job. He'd worked tirelessly, pushing himself through the pain of having his own hands cut and mutilated by the hardwood of the shovel he'd been entrusted with, "You've certainly been working hard," one of the men in the group snickered.

The leader ignored his comrade and proceeded in a calm tone, "Our deal was simple. You get done with digging by the end of the coronation. Only then would we honour our end of the deal. From the looks of it, however, you're barely done and the coronation is about to begin."

"No, I'm done, sir. I've done what you asked. Please give her back to me," the dirty man, frightened out of his mind, got to his knees and began begging the leader of the criminals, paying no mind about the dirt he was placing his forehead on.

A woman in the group regarded his sorry state with a look of disgust... 'He's no more than an insect. Such gives me more reason to wipe these foul creatures from the face of the planet.'

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"Well, I'll have to confirm your words first," the man responded, beckoning to one of his men. A somewhat built man with green eyes leapt into the pit and vanished into the darkness.

They waited for him for the better part of thirty minutes for him to return. Gripping the edge of the rim of the large pit, the man hefted himself up effortlessly.

"He speaks the truth, my lord. The tunnel makes it straight to beneath the palace. No, it's not just that, the tunnel stops somewhere and meets a collection of tunnels. The one I followed led me to one of the store rooms. I'm sure there are other places the tunnels can lead us, however, all might be just within reach of the ground floor," the man gave his detailed report.

“See, I did what you required of me. Now, please, let my daughter go. I beg of you,” the man begged hysterically.

“Do you know why we picked you out?” the leader smirked, “It’s because you don’t interfere with the empire’s matters. Those of you that think hermit life is the way to avoid the war feel like you’re all high and mighty. So I’ll tell you this.

You won’t see your daughter. Perhaps you could do something to persuade me into giving her back, but it’s pointless now. Besides, we don’t have time to start playing hide and seek with the little devil,” the man turned his attention away from the grief-stricken hermit and leapt into the pit. His goons followed him with snickers and smirks on their faces.

The man looked into the pit with a look of despair, “What have I done? Megan, I’m sorry.” The hermit sobbed into his palms, dreading every possibility that could result from his actions. It had earned him nothing and he was now bound to see the chaos and suffering happening in front of him... because of him.

While he was sobbing, a guttural growl filled the air, snapping him out of his weeping. He looked around the forest floor in search of the source of the sound and soon came face to face with a majestic creature with an equally magnificent golden mane.

Despite the creature’s menacing power and oppressive aura, he felt at ease in its presence. If he was to choose the suspicious group of thugs that had taken his daughter away from him and this lion, he would have chosen the lion.

However, now the creature was walking up to him. Its golden eyes were set on him, never once shifting their gaze. The hermit found himself dreading whatever it was the lion wanted from him, ‘Please, don’t eat me...’ he thought to beg, but this was a lion. It couldn’t possibly understand him. If anything, he thought any sound he made would sound more like a challenge to the majestic king of beasts.

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Katie didn’t like the attention she garnered by simply showing up in the throne room. The moment the doors of the room swung open to admit her along with her beta alpha, she felt everyone’s eyes flying to her.

The scrutiny was overbearing. Nevertheless, with Kyle not far behind her, she pushed through and made her way to the front row of the chairs in the room where she was glad to find a collection of familiar faces... ‘her family.’

Katie’s nerves melted away at the sight of her family and all her obnoxious thoughts of decorum. Her family was here.

The Luna embraced her mother, father, Lina, Drake, Marie and Sandra before taking a seat beside her mate, “Don’t I get a hug?” the man asked her.

“You already have my heart, isn’t that enough for you?” she teased him, placing a peck on his cheek. The sentiment got him flushed.

‘Nice colour to see on the king of Lycaon,’ Ashley giggled.

“Y-you can’t say things like that. I’ll forget my entire speech,” Cole responded, taking note of the pigeon that had taken flight to her chair once she started hugging everyone.

The girl didn’t seem bothered by the creature. ‘This might be one of the birds she kept going on about... Fan, was it? No, that’s not it... What was the other one... Diana... I’m in trouble,’ the king sighed.

“Your majesty, might I get rid of the foul bird that’s been hanging about you?” Jason asked with a slight bow. Kyle covered his mouth to hide his laughter... and walked a distance away from the spectacle.

“Foul bird! How dare he!” Darla cooed in anger.

“No, Jason, you will not get rid of my pet friend,” the Luna quickly replied.

“There has never been a single animal in the throne room. Why would we make an exception today of all days?” he countered.

Katie looked about her before rubbing her temples, “It’s like you’re forgetting the largest number of people in this room are werewolves.”

“Back off, Jason. Have some respect for your Luna’s wishes,” Cole intervened before the two of them would start bickering, “It might be unusual for someone to bring a bird into the throne room, but I know Katie wouldn’t... Wait... Katie, what’s going on?” Cole’s words had sounded better in his head.

However, now he was on to something. Katie rarely ever acted on a whim. She was also not one to casually embrace her ability to talk to animals in public. He knew this much about his mate from the first time she had revealed this ability to him.

Chapter 332 Now Anxious?!!

Katie noticed the look of realisation on his face and figured he’d connected all the dots.

“You certainly took a while to figure it out. It’s simple really,” she then gestured to the proud pigeon perching on her shoulder, “Darla happens to know the faces of the criminals and might even be able to anticipate their attacks before anything bad happens.”

“We have had men stationed at all entrances into the castle and no one has spotted any of the criminals said to attack us today. It’s only a matter of time before we find them,” Jason replied, defending the security he’d set up.

The Luna scrunched her eyebrows in confusion. Hadn’t they got information about the attack on her yet? Something wasn’t adding up. Kyle stepped forward before Katie could respond, “That might be true, but on our way here, we were attacked by one of the criminals pretending to work here.”

Cole’s face paled, “Why didn’t I hear about this as soon as it happened?”

“First of all, Cole, I’m fine. Kyle protected me... much more than I thought he was capable if you ask me,” the Luna mumbled the last part. Kyle was not amused, “Secondly, we shouldn’t jump to conclusions and start pointing fingers just yet. That will only bring more confusion. Could have just been a lack of communication from the guards. I assumed they would tell you about this, but I guess they are taking longer than expected. The worst-case scenario is that they ran into some trouble.

In any case, worrying about this past mistake will only give our enemies more time to prepare a coordinated attack,” Katie explained her reasoning.

The prince sank back into his seat, rubbing his temples. His mate was making sense right now. In fact, she was acting more level-headed than he’d expected. Something still bothered him, “How did they get into the palace though?”

The bird perched on Katie’s shoulder poked her at that moment, calling for her attention, “Tunnels, Katie. Tunnels that connect to nearly every room on the ground floor of the palace. You won’t even see them coming,” the bird replied, “I also advise you don’t tell Cole about this until he’s done with his speech. It might throw him off.”

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‘That last request is bitter. Do we really have to?’ Ashley groaned in her mind.

Katie was quiet for a moment before speaking up, “I’m not sure yet, but Darla will be able to identify them if it comes down to it. Jason, make sure you keep a watchful eye, even on those that have already entered the throne room.” With that, the girl was no longer interested in speaking of the matter and her expression said it all.

“Understood, Luna Katie,” Jason was gone in a flash.

The doors of the throne room swung open once again, admitting someone dressed much more elegantly in comparison to Katie. The only other person in the room that had dressed in a flowing gown as exquisite as the one the queen wore was Queen Martha herself.

All eyes fell on the queen as she glided into the room. Her gait was almost impossible to discern. Her bright blue eyes radiated power that forced all the wolves that faced her bow to acknowledge their ruler.

She made her way to the two thrones at the front that overlooked the throne room. Sitting on the throne that was meant for the Luna, designed just as luxuriously as its counterpart, but in blue rather than red. Gems were encrusted in intricate patterns into the chair’s very arms and legs, giving it a look of grandeur like no other. It was the throne of a king.

Caden walked to the podium in front of the thrones, dressed in a suit with an earpiece and mouthpiece to make him audible over the well-positioned speakers, “Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. We welcome all that were able to attend physically and those that watch on or listen from the comfort of their homes to the coronation ceremony of the future king, Cole Lycaon. Without spending any more precious time, I’d like to invite the Queen and Luna of Lycaon to speak on behalf of her regime. To speak on behalf of the king, Alpha Trevor Lycaon.”

The queen stepped up from her place on the throne and began to address the gathering, “Katie, what is on your mind?” Cole’s voice invaded the girl’s mind.

“I didn’t want to bother your speech. It turns out, the palace might have already been infiltrated. According to Darla, security might not be able to keep them out of the throne room,” she mentally sighed, “Please try to keep your reaction to a...”

“WHAT???” Cole’s voice was louder than Katie had expected.

“Oh dear,” the girl rubbed her temples, “Please try to stay calm.” The girl sent the queen an apologetic grimace... hoping she would understand that it was a mistake that wasn’t meant to happen. The woman had stopped speaking when Cole snapped. Murmurs rippled through the room.

“I will calm down when those bandits are caught,” the prince replied, in a much lower tone ignoring the disturbance he’d just made. Whether it was because he was trying to avoid more of a commotion or whether he didn’t care about what he’d just done was lost on everyone that bothered.

He sank back in his seat. If he hadn’t been anxious before, he was now, “Would you accompany me to the front when my turn to speak arrives? This would be a good opportunity to introduce you to the pack as my mate anyway.”

Katie was caught off-guard by his request, “Wait, what... That was so sudden.”

“Please, Katie...” he pleaded. The girl wanted to continue complaining, but one look at his trembling hands told her all she needed to know. She placed her smaller hand over the king’s trembling hand and gave it a gentle squeeze, not that she could have squeezed it any harder.

“Sure, I’ll be with you every step of the way.”

#### Chapter 333 Royal Speech

The queen, after going through her short speech of introduction and welcome invited Cole to step up. The throne room took on a different form of silence. The anticipation and excitement in the room were so noticeable they nearly took physical form.

Caden walked onto the raised platform from the other side holding out a red pillow. On it lay a golden ceremonial crown Katie had never got the chance to see in person. ‘I never thought this occasion was this fancy,’ she thought to herself.

‘I would expect nothing less for a king of the werewolf empire,’ Ashley huffed within her mind. The girl felt a tug on her hand and stood along with the future king of Lycaon. As it so happened, Cole was still on edge after hearing what she had said, but her close proximity kept him calm to some extent. With her close by, the prince could relax knowing he could protect his Luna. He squeezed her hand gently, suppressing the raging storm of emotions that now had him on edge.

Knowing there were people in the palace that would attempt to take his mate’s life was not the best thought for someone about to inherit the throne of an empire. His wolf wanted to gut them right where they stood... On the other hand, he wanted to be by his mate’s side. There was the matter he’d spoken to with the Chase hunters that chose this moment to resurface.

There were murmurs through the crowd, but Katie blocked them out and focused on keeping her gait steady even when her legs protested. The flowing dress that she’d donned did not allow her the mobility she was otherwise used to. When Cole was right in front of the queen, he reluctantly let go of the girl, “I’m not going anywhere,” Katie whispered into his mind.

The pigeon on her shoulder pitched in quietly, “The two of you look even cuter together than I had initially fantasized. It’s clear he cares for you more than anything else in the world.”

The girl nodded in response to the bird and faced the audience as Cole took the microphone. ‘Wait... I have a pigeon...’ Katie forced the thought from her mind and decided to play it cool. She had made her entire entrance with the bird by her side. How was this supposed to be any different?

The gazes that she met this time, however, felt like they were drilling holes into her very soul, “You know, if I didn’t know any better, I would say you need me more now than I do,” Cole’s voice chuckled in her mind, “Get over here.”

Distracted by his words, her mind spiralled for a moment before she stepped closer to him. The alpha chuckled and wrapped his hand around her waist, pulling her even closer to him, “Before I get into the speech you all know I spent nights on, I would like to introduce my mate to the pack. This lovely beauty before you is Katie Sirius of the Sirius empire. She will be my... and your Luna and future Queen.”

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Katie flashed a nervous smile at the stunned wolves watching them. There was silence before a few claps that slowly increased to a thunderous roar that went through the crowd. The girl had been convinced they would like her. But this reaction set her nerves at ease and allowed her to wave to the crowd at least, “Did you have to do this in public?”

“It’s normal for an alpha to demonstrate possessiveness of their mate. Besides, I know you like it. Don’t act like you don’t,” Cole whispered into her ear. The girl’s face went red with embarrassment. ‘How can he say things like that while the entire pack stares at us?’

Her reaction seemed to prolong the claps and introduce a mix of laughter and whistles into the applauding werewolves. Katie found that it was all that had been needed to lower the tension in the room.

Cole seemed just as pleased with the results. His nerves vanished as well as he began his speech, “This speech was well-written, but while I was reading, I figured it would sound well practised and so I threw it in the trash and no, you cannot go fishing for it.

I’ll say what comes to mind because, in the end, that’s what’s important. I don’t consider myself capable of being a king as great as my father was. He was certainly a strong man with no equal. On the other hand, I am much younger and not nearly as experienced as he was. What I do know that I had in common with my father though, is our love for the Lycaon empire. The reason he didn’t buckle when his world was dark was his love for the empire. I may not be as strong as him, but I will, to the best of my abilities uphold the vision that’s been passed down from one king to the other.

To protect the empire with all their being and strive for the prosperity of this kingdom, no matter what the future holds. To let others lean on them while they lean on them for guidance when they are lost. I am not alone in my leadership and if I ever falter, I know I will have someone by my side to set me straight. To a prosperous future,” Cole’s speech was inspiring and captivating that it had the whole room grow quiet while he spoke. His voice started normal, but as he continued to speak, his voice was filled with more and more conviction that entranced the whole audience.

An uproar of applause filled the crowd after they realised he had finished speaking to them. Cole turned around to face the thrones that stood side by side in the throne room. The queen stood to the side of his path to the throne with Caden holding the red cushion hosting the crown. Katie hadn’t noticed Jason

approach the podium, but he stood on the other side of the queen with a red cape in hand. No doubt meant for the king.

Cole walked to them with Katie following slightly behind him. She watched with a proud smile as the king accepted the crown that was placed on his head. Jason went around him and set the red cape on his shoulders as he received the crown at the same time. When the king rose to his full height, his whole demeanour was different and it garnered more praise from the audience. Cole continued his walk to the thrones and turned to face the people of the empire that he would rule for years to come.

This was only the beginning...

#### Chapter 334 Melody

The moment Cole spent looking regal was short-lived to those that broke out of it in time. Which comprised everyone besides Katie. The Luna was still frozen at the moment, having witnessed an alpha take his place as king. It wasn't every day she got to watch something like that. Cole called out to the frozen form of his mate, "You're supposed to be beside me, you know."

The girl snapped out of her trance and slowly but gracefully took her place in front of the throne the queen had only been seated on moments before them, "Sorry, you looked a thousand times the ruler I thought you would," she replied.

Cole chuckled and took his seat on the red throne. The Luna followed suit and sat as well. Her eyes finally met the gazes of the crowd watching her and wished she'd only looked up. Katie was not used to getting direct attention from many people at once and this was one of those moments.

Most of the people in the crowd looked at her with looks of fascination and pride. There were a few that had calculating gazes, almost as though they were judging the way she carried herself. The few young children allowed into the throne room, most bearing red eyes, looked at her in awe of her beauty and elegance (however much she thought she wasn't qualified to receive the last compliments).

What kept her heart from spiralling out of control were two things. The scent and proximity of the man seated at her side. His mind and physical presence were always aware of her presence. If she was to breathe unevenly, he would know... and Katie had no doubt that he would shift his attention from the entire empire to tend to her.

The other thing that set her at ease was the looks on her family's faces, "From a girl struggling to become a mighty hunter in a remote town..."

"To a queen of the werewolf empire. Quite the tale, wouldn't you say?" Cole whispered. Caden took the stage after the applause had died down and began introducing the next part of the ceremony. As a form of celebration, performances were held before the king.

It was only after Katie consulted Cole that she realised the day was only beginning. They also had to address all the noble families that would have come to attend the ceremony. Grasping the magnitude of the event, Katie got comfortable in her seat.

They watched all manner of performances that had been gathered for the ceremony. Some were funny, others were thrilling and others were breathtaking. Katie found herself having a blast while they watched them all come and go.

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Each performance was unique and the Luna couldn't bring herself to rank any above the others. Caden and Jason played their roles perfectly as well, introducing the different people with as much vigour as the ceremony commanded... Well, Jason was outshining Caden in that department... no one was judging. The boisterous beta alpha simply couldn't be matched by anyone.

"And now we shall have someone that the locals have come to know as a rising star in the entertainment industry. She has been seen performing a few times. The audiences that have witnessed her have only been left with good things to say about her. She struck the royal house as a marvel that should be acknowledged. I'd like to invite Ms Candice Turner to the stage," Jason's voice was filled with mystery and wonder. He was taking his act to a whole new level and had the people hanging at his every word.

There was mixed applause from the audience, probably from people that knew the name that the beta alpha had just mentioned, "Ah, so that's her name," Cole exclaimed.

"What do you mean? Who is she?" Katie asked the king, confused as to who they were talking about. The king gestured to the young girl that was stepping onto the podium before them. She was dressed to kill in a glamorous jade dress that showed her figure yet kept her decency. A delicate balance that had been captured masterfully. Her make-up had been done expertly and she walked with the elegance of an experienced entertainer despite how young she looked.

Katie was about to ask Cole once again who she was when the memory resurfaced. The girl that had been kidnapped by the bandits when she was supposed to entertain people at the king's coronation, "Oh, so that's her," Katie replied, her curiosity soaring high. 'This should be good...'

The girl took a hold of the microphone from Jason and held it in slightly shaking hands, "My name is Candice Turner. Normally, I would just sing and get off the stage after the applause... but... I would like to offer my gratitude to our beloved King and Luna for rescuing me," the girl said, turning to the king and Luna.

"I am glad to see you doing well. I'm sorry you had to go through all that," the king replied, barely fazed by her sudden actions. Katie regarded Cole for a moment. On his throne, he looked like the ideal king and fit the position so naturally that he made it look as easy as breathing.

After the girl had bowed to the two of them, she turned to the audience, "The song I'm singing today is to express my gratitude to the king and queen and my love for our empire," the girl said to them, her melodic voice almost squealing with excitement.

A band had snuck onto the stage while she was making her introductions and setting up their equipment as well. The music began softly, a flute and soft guitar filling the air in the throne room and silencing the last of the murmurs.

Katie found herself paying more attention to the girl than she had in the previous performances. The girl's eyes were shut and her head began to sway to the slow music. The rest of the band filtered in and not long after, went silent signalling her cue to join in... Her singing voice, unlike her normal voice, was even sweeter and so beautiful that it had everyone gasping at the sudden transformation.



From the very start of the song, the audience belonged to this one girl.

Goddess smiling down from the bright clear night sky

Bless the crown that guides

Protects and Nurtures Your Children

With strength, hope and courage

The King and Queen forge a path anew

For the world to follow

And everlasting peace to keep for as long as they stay true

Lycaon, Sirius, pillars of an Empire

We owe it all to their benevolence

And to the Moon that Watches from above

‘This girl sounds like she’s been living in your mind, Katie,’ Ashley humbly chimed in. Katie didn’t reply... For her ears were paying close attention to the girl’s song, as was the entire audience. For a girl her age, Katie was impressed by her skill.

Her voice was all that could be heard in the entirety of the throne room. It was almost flawless when she sang the notes to perfection and everyone in the room didn’t want the marvel to end.

Just when the song had come to an end and applause had filled the Great Throne Room, the pigeon perched on Katie’s shoulder cooed loudly. This sound wouldn’t have been enough to stop the heavy applause. What joined it, however, was more than enough. The sound of hundreds of pigeons reverberated through the throne room stunning the whole crowd.

The words that came from Darla’s beak... were the last words the girl would have ever wanted to hear from the bird after a performance that enchanting, “They are here. They are within the audience...”

### Chapter 335 Unbroken Luna

The dirty man stayed completely still in front of the lion that had just appeared before him, wondering what the beast wanted with him.

His nerves lay between frightened and confused. He didn’t know what to do in the presence of the king of beasts. What was worse was that the lion was not attacking him, ‘Would you just get it over with? If that’s what you want,’ his mind screamed, ‘What’s a lion even doing this close to the capital?’

The lion, however, had other ideas. It walked up to him and gestured to the hole he’d dug with his own hands using its... paw. The man looked between the pit and the lion in more confusion.

The gesture alone caught him off-guard that he had no idea how to respond. The lion could tear him to pieces if he gave it the wrong ‘impression’. Did the king of beasts even care for what impression he gave? He was already covered head-to-toe in dirt.

The fear of angering the beast kept the man petrified in the spot he sat on. The lion growled in warning, snapping him out of his daze. "He wants you to go inside with him," a woman's voice tore through the tense atmosphere.

The man's eyes darted around and came eye-to-eye with an old woman walking towards him. She held a walking stick in her hand and walked with a bear next to her. Another sight that was set to live within the man's nightmares, "I'm sorry. Do you understand... them?" the man gestured to the two mighty beasts with a shaky finger.

"Yes, I do and so does the one other that you've set those criminals on their path to kill," the old woman replied.

"What could I do? They have my daughter. It's not like I could let her die," the man was now screaming. He had led a group of murderers to the king and lost his daughter in the same process. Dying to these two beasts was a mercy to him at the moment. His whole world was shattering.

The lion turned to the woman with a growl the man found oddly specific in tone, almost like the lion would never growl in a similar tone ever again. All the same, each growl sounded the same... intimidating and promising a gruesome death.

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"If your daughter is the one they have in captivity, the lion knows where she is, but you are to help us stop what you have unleashed on Lycaon. The king and queen need you now more than ever," the woman said to him.

"Very well then. I will help, but..."

"I will rescue your daughter and make sure she remains safe. I still have enough strength in these old bones to do that much.

You, on the other hand, are going to lead him to the throne room and get him in through the hidden passage in the throne room. Since you've had time inside the tunnels, I'm hoping you know the way there. I'm hoping the criminals were slowed down by their lack of information on navigating the tunnels," the woman ordered.

For the first time in days, this dirty hermit bore a look of hope and new energy flowed into his system, "I'll do my best then. Please take care of my daughter," the man requested, placing his forehead on the ground, "Please... she's all I have."

The old woman sighed, "You don't have to do that. I will rescue her for you. Just keep our end of this bargain, okay?"

The hermit's once-shattered heart was filled with more relief than he could have asked for. Without wasting any more time, he dove into the pit and the lion followed through, easily keeping up with the hermit in his weakened state. In this situation, however, speed was not all they needed. Proper direction would get them anywhere fastest no matter what speed they used.

The two of them rushed through the dark damp tunnel that soon connected to one that was sturdy and old. Built with concrete, these tunnels suggested there were tunnels that had been established to run under the palace a long time ago.

Having had the time to go through the tunnels to prove that they were the ones that would get the criminals into the palace, the hermit knew the way to the throne room. It only took a short time for the two of them to make it to the throne room and to the secret door that would admit them into the palace. The door was open when they got there...

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At Darla's words, Katie stood from her seat abruptly, stunning her mate, "What's the problem, Katie?" Cole asked. The bird beside her had cooed at the end of the performance and Katie's reaction and fear was enough to tell him that something was wrong. Knowing what the girl had told him earlier, "Where are they?" was his next question.

"Darla, how..." panic filled the girl's voice. Her muscles tensed but also buckled in resistance to her powerful reflexes. Instinctively, the former hunter reached for her reserves of divine energy, but they were empty. The boost she usually got when she did this didn't come. She was frozen in place, only able to scan through the crowd in horror.

"We've got that covered," Darla replied, cooing louder into the silence of the throne room. The room went silent for a moment as the girl continued to search the room.

"Cole, what's going on?" one of the alphas in the front rows asked. He opened his mouth to ask more only to be shut down by a loud flutter of wings that filled the halls. The audience turned around and witnessed the door burst open and admit a thundering swarm of pigeons into the throne room.

Katie gathered her strength or what was left of it and walked up to the girl that had been singing, taking the microphone from her. Against all her nerves, she spoke up, "I believe you've all heard about the criminals that planned an attack on the palace on this day." The girl called out on the microphone. Thorrin was beside her within the blink of an eye.

"What do you think you're doing, Katie?" the hunter glared at her.

"The pigeons are going to flock around the criminals we've been looking for," the girl said to him, with the microphone away from her mouth.

The Mighty Warrior was stunned by her reply and turned his eyes to the swarm of pigeons that was impossible to penetrate with the naked eye. They were so many that they had blocked his sight of the ceiling.

Panic had started to set in the room as the flock of birds descended on the audience. Unable to do anything, the hunter watched the frightened crowd disperse in an attempt to escape the birds.

It was a chaotic mess of fluttering wings, screams and coos in the throne room. Oddly enough, the birds kept away from the royal family at the front. The chaos looked like it wouldn't end, but that's when it started to take form.

As more people dispersed, the pigeons would let them through, allowing them to escape the messy swarm with next to no scratches.

Those that escaped the swarm to stand to the side of the throne room, closer to the wall would not be touched anymore by the pigeons.

“It doesn’t seem like...”

“Get these filthy fowls off me,” a bitter male voice echoed through the throne room. Contrary to what was happening to most that escaped the raging pigeons, the owner of this voice was receiving a very different.

While others were able to escape the flock’s wrath with no injuries at all, this man was being pecked so many times that wounds riddled his arms and face. He could barely see and the pigeons that had initially lacked a target in the chaotic mess seemed particularly focused on giving him the pecking of his life.

He fought to get free from the pigeons, but with the dense flutter that obscured his vision and the sheer number of birds about him, he was disoriented and unable to tell up from down. His aimless thrashing didn’t help with his situation. If anything, he was only getting himself more confused by trying to attack what he could not see. One of his lucky thrashes would get a bird in his grasp and the man would mercilessly snuff the life from the creature by closing his fist with angry force.

“Katie, what is going on?” Thorrin asked her in a calmer tone this time. The room was starting to regain some semblance of organised chaos and the screaming of the people was starting to die down as they escaped the raging pigeons.

The Luna turned to Thorrin with a pained smile, “I can talk to animals... What better way to survey the city unnoticed? I asked that they come here and help me identify the criminals.”

Thorrin found comprehending the Luna’s will impossible. Taking his gifts would have been the last straw that would break him. If he was in her shoes, he would have given up already. She could barely stand as it was... and yet...

‘So that’s why you caught the eye of two gods... An unbreakable will.’

Chapter 336 [Bonus chapter]First Time On the Sidelines

Thorrin watched as five individuals were finally filtered out from the large crowd. The hunters in the room approached them. As the hunters got closer to these individuals, the pigeons surrounding them flew away giving the hunters access to the bloodied werewolves. While their faces were not still as recognisable because of all the blood, they were still able to identify them as the criminals that they had been looking for.

Katie stood relieved that no one had been hurt in the skirmish. The hunters went to work restraining the criminals only to step back as the five of them shifted immediately. The room was soon in the presence of five hostile wolves. Three of them could be identified as rogues while two weren’t. The hunters got ready for the fight that was to take place. Katie stepped back from the scene before her and got closer to Cole.

The king was already by her side, so she didn’t have to retreat all the way back to the thrones.

“It seems they don’t mean to come quietly,” Thorrin sighed right before he vanished in a blur. His tremendous speed launched him straight for the nearest wolf with the intention of putting him down with one hit. After all, his strength was quite enough for him to put the wolf down in a single move.

As he was about to make contact, however, the wolf swerved to the right, letting the man through. The Perfect Warrior was caught off-guard, but not left defenceless. Thorrin planted one of his feet on the armrest of the seat the wolf had been sitting on and with incredible balance and skill, used the sturdy wood to change his orientation completely to face the wolf.

The wolf, shocked by his quick reaction, turned to the people standing all around the room, petrified in fear. This was a fight he couldn’t win, however, if he could only get a hostage...

Another blur interrupted its path as Sandra appeared right in front of the wolf, wielding two hunting knives. The wolf planted his feet on the ground to break his speed, just narrowly surviving a swipe that would have marred his muzzle or... at his initial speed, taken his head off. Adjusting her hold on the knives, the girl went on the offensive the moment her attack was missed. The wolf rapidly and smoothly shifted into his human form and leapt back to escape the wrath of the female hunter, forgetting the warrior behind him.

Thorrin put the man to sleep with a punch to the back of the head, “You’re good. Or maybe, Katie’s a good teacher,” the man exclaimed.

“Both... Both is good...”

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The other four wolves picked up on the first wolf’s way of thinking and chose to do what they did best. ‘Wreak Havoc...’ With their attack plan already falling to ruin, their intentions were known to all that watched them and that was to bring down as many civilians in the room as they could. Killing even one would mean a great failure to the hunters that were protecting them.

It went without saying that the wolves could already feel the noose wrapped around them getting tighter. From the moment Katie exposed them, the odds were no longer in their favour.

“Don’t let anyone out of this room. There could be others out there,” Thorrin yelled. This only made the wolves in the room more anxious to leave. Staying in the same room with criminals this vicious wouldn’t allow anyone comfort.

Marie danced around another wolf, not once allowing the wolf to catch sight of her. All the while delivering nicks and cuts at the right spots with a poisoned blade. Unlike Thorrin, she was not underestimating her opponents. Not after what had happened with the rogue king.

Before the wolf she was fighting could tell what was happening, the tendons in his legs were already cut and purple veins were spreading from the wounds. The wolf crumpled to the ground with a painful grunt and passed out. The hunters moved in to restrain the wolf while Marie set her sights on another that was being held back by three hunters. ‘I’m just glad I didn’t dress the same way I dressed my daughter,’ she mentally applauded her decision.

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King Davin pulled up his sleeves and grabbed the unsuspecting wolf nearest to him by the scruff of the neck. Almost as though it weighed nothing, the king bashed its head into the back of a neighbouring chair and rendered him unconscious regardless of the wolf's struggles. The other wolf was just as quickly dealt with and with more hunters getting a grip on the situation, the king only needed to block one of its escape routes while they handled the rest.

The last of the wolves turned to the stage and ran at full speed. Katie took a step back only to feel the fabric in the way of her shoe. The dress she wore was not manoeuvrable at all and she could have sworn she saw the wolf smirk at the sight of her fidgeting to get away.

The wolf leapt from below the raised platform before the thrones only to get caught in the neck by the palm of the newly crowned king. Katie looked back at the throne and where Cole was currently standing. Sighing in relief that she was protected, she was about to turn away. "Katie," Darla cooed, "Something's wrong with your mate."

Katie turned fast and her eyes widened in shock. Cole was angry enough to kill the wolf dangling in his hands. Shaking off the strange thoughts Ashley was trying to project from watching Cole defend them, the girl pushed forward and placed her hands on Cole's shoulders. "Cole..." her voice did the trick. The alpha let the wolf fall to the ground. Jason rushed forward and knocked him unconscious, finishing his alpha's job.

"How are you so calm right...?" Cole froze at the sight of his mate, "Katie, what's wrong with your eyes?"

At the same time, another voice yelled from across the throne room. Katie recognized Sandra's voice amidst all the chaos. However, the voice was getting fainter and fainter. 'That's not right...'

The third item to fight for her attention was the sudden appearance of a sixth wolf diving straight for her with its maw open wide. Her instincts kicked in to help her evade the wolf.

She wanted to pivot out of the way of the incoming wolf. This time was different though. Everything was starting to move slower and her legs roared in fatigue and rejected the commands she gave them...

Her energy was already spent.

Chapter 337 Last Sparks of Divinity

Sandra watched in fear as her friend stood helplessly in the way of an attacking wolf. She saw the girl's attempt to escape her fate and also noticed how her eyes flashed brighter blue in fear. She'd been walking and standing for more than two hours which was far longer than Sandra thought her capable of.

She could only imagine Katie had already reached her limit. Sandra was far from the platform housing the two royals and knew she couldn't make it. Calling out to her best friend had not done much to change her fate.

The rogue was still going to reach her. Everything seemed to be moving slowly as more divine energy filtered through her system, boosting her body to its peak performance. The girl let her Prometheus gift run loose and dashed for the girl even when she knew she was already too late.

Her mentor was just about to be attacked. Cole's attention tore away from his mate's frighteningly bright blue eyes and to the wolf that came out of nowhere. Reacting fast, he pulled his mate away from the wolf as fast as he could, putting himself in between the two. She wasn't as indestructible as he was. The newly crowned king held on to his mate and waited for an attack that never came.

Instead, a growl filled the room and two creatures crashed next to the thrones in a nasty tangle. Cole looked back and was even more stunned to see a large lion wrestling wolf that had just attacked his mate. The whole room was petrified by the sight and watched the king of beasts dominate the fight against a very disoriented werewolf.

The wolf tried slashing and biting at his new attacker, but the lion was faster and much stronger than him. The lion tripped the wolf and clamped its jaw down on the wolf's neck. "Don't kill him," Katie's voice broke through the silence. The lion froze at the command and let go of the wolf. However, the lion placed both of its forelegs on opposite sides of the wolf, pinning it to the ground.

The girl's knees finally gave out. Sensing his mate's weakness, Cole caught her and lifted her into his arms, "This is the second time you're having to carry me like this. I hope you don't think it will be a habit."

"I will do it even when you're not weak. That's a promise. So you hurry up and get better," the king replied to her.

"Katie, are you okay?" Lina appeared before them, startling them with her sudden appearance. Cole looked between the place the Sirius family had been occupying and the girl that had just reached them and shook off the obnoxious speed she was capable of.

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"Yeah, not a scratch on me," the Luna forced a smile.

"No, Katie, that's not what I mean and you know it. Look at you. Your eyes won't stop glowing," the girl argued.

"My eyes are always glowing. It shows that I'm a..."

"No, Katie... Damn it, would you stop playing dumb with me?" the girl screamed at her.

Katie froze at her sister's tone. Lina was genuinely worried and unlike her mother, she reached her limit of tolerance much faster, "I will be fine, Lina. You shouldn't worry like that. I will get better and put an end to this war like I've always said I would."

Thorrin made it to the girl in time to interrupt the sisters' first conversation in weeks, "Those bright eyes are not a good sign. Katie, I would like you to stop pushing yourself," the man replied.

"No, not yet. The animals that helped..."

"They will go back to the wild where they belong. You don't have to worry about them," the man responded, "I'll make sure of it. This, I promise. Now rest... Before we have more to worry about than we might be able to fix."

Heeding the man's plea, Katie turned her face to stare once more at her loving mate. Cole's expression was almost unreadable at first, but the bond they shared spoke volumes about the man's emotions and laid them bare for her to notice.

It was as though his world was beginning to crumble all over again. After losing his mother and father, Katie was all he had left who mattered to him on levels no one could replace, "Promise me you will be fine," the Luna whispered. With her energy already at its limit, it was a miracle she was still conscious. That's what her blue eyes were showing. The last reserves of divine energy she had were keeping her conscious, but that couldn't last long.

In her current state, she found herself unable to convince Cole that she would be getting better. They still didn't know of a cure for what was affecting her. Her worries, not surprisingly, were not for her own safety. Cole didn't have a scratch on him and was currently carrying her with next to no effort and yet she worried more about him than herself. 'I wish there was another way I could ease his pain,' the girl thought to herself as her mind descended into the dark abyss of her empty consciousness.

This time she didn't dream like she normally did. Everything simply went dark and silent. In the far background, the receding sounds of the voices from those that cared about her faded more and more.

She could swear she heard a lion's growl amidst the chaos that surrounded her, but alas, that was all it had been... a growl. It wasn't like she could understand what the creature had been trying to convey to her.

With barely any divine energy left, her ability to discern the meaning behind that growl wouldn't come to her. 'Darla...' she thought to herself. The pigeon was no longer perching on her shoulder.

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Watching everything from the confines of the moon palace was the goddess of the moon. Her fists were clenched, and her face locked in a pained expression as she watched everything happen outside of her scope of control.

Seth found that for once, he couldn't do anything to ease her nerves. Ever since they'd been visited by the god of the skies, she'd been watching her interruptions more and couldn't risk breaking the rules or bending them like she used to lest she risked attracting his attention.

There was one thing he could say to her though, "You chose a special one."

The goddess lifted her head to face him, a warm memory running through her mind, "I always do, don't I?"

The man chuckled and pulled his wife into a warm hug, "My time is long gone... but she still has time."

#### Chapter 338 Secret Tunnel

Cole turned to Thorrin, concealing the emotions that threatened to explode from his heart, "You said..."

"I know what I said. We have to get going. Marie, would you call the doctor? We need to have her stabilized before transporting her," the Mighty Warrior was already steps ahead, playing the part of the level-headed powerful hunter to perfection. What was inside, however, was an entirely different matter, but Thorrin didn't have the luxury of letting his emotions cloud his judgement. This was what



the hunters had trained themselves to do in situations when no one else could function clearly. As soon as requested, Marie vanished from view.

Caden and Jason got to overseeing the hunters that were securing the prisoners, diligently reporting all their decisions and discoveries to the king so he knew he would have nothing to worry about.

Cole seemed petrified at the spot with his unconscious mate in his arms. The girl was breathing, but there was something eerie about how she slept this time. He could sense it and so could his wolf.

The fear that had gripped him every morning when he woke up. The fear he hoped would never come. And one that almost seemed impossible. Waking up to someone who was completely fine, but unable to wake up was a nightmare he'd had, but that still wasn't something he thought possible.

However, after watching a swarm of pigeons save the empire from rogue criminals and a lion come to Katie's rescue, why would this be impossible? Cole was now certain that Katie was incapable of waking up from this slumber. "Cole, what's happening?" a deep voice called out through all the chaos. The hunters guided the frightened wolves out of the throne room, giving the royals and everyone that was needed the space to sort out these unfortunate events.

Cole looked up from his mate and regarded the King of Sirius approaching him with the rest of the Sirius family. If Cole had expected Katie to wake up soon, he probably would have had the ability to be frightened by the man's booming voice and scary demeanour, but this didn't phase him.

He wanted only to know that his mate would be well. Alas, the Mighty Warrior had not explained everything to him and he could not be sure of what was going to happen, "Katie... has been pushing herself a little bit... and I'm afraid her condition has reached the point we were trying to avoid."

"What do you mean by 'she has been pushing herself a little bit'? You brought her onto the stage on your own. We all saw you do that," the king countered.

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"That was for her own protection. She had just told me of the attempt on her life on her way to the throne room, so I chose to bring her here," Cole replied, keeping his voice levelled and unintentionally distant.

The sirens of an ambulance soon reached the tense air of the throne room. Thorrin was about to walk off when the lion that was going unnoticed leapt off the raised stage. With the criminal it had pinned captured, the king of beasts thought to proceed to other matters that required his attention. Katie was in good paws after all.

"Oh no, that big cat is not going..." Thorrin paused when he noticed the beast race off in a direction opposite from the exit. The mighty warrior followed the lion, curiosity finally taking a hold of him. Leaving the chaos behind him, the man followed the lion. Not far from the two thrones, at the back corner of the throne room that wasn't as lit as the rest of the room, the lion came to a stop.

The wall looked odd at that point, almost like it had been mistakenly built out of alignment with the rest of it. The lion pushed the wall with both of its paws and it budged, easily gaping open to reveal a large tunnel on the other side. On the other side of the hidden door was a man covered in dirt from head to toe. The man tipped his head to the side in confusion.

The man before him didn't look like a rogue criminal. In fact, his shivering hands signified terror, yet when the lion walked past him, he barely flinched, "Who are you? I see you have met this lion. Did the Voice of the Wild send you here?" Thorrin asked him. When he noticed the confusion, he added, "An old woman that can speak to animals."

"What... No, I mean, yes... Oh no, you weren't supposed to see me. All I was supposed to do was warn the king before the attack," the man fidgeted, "but I was late. I don't have any connection to the woman if that's what you're asking. Please, you have to believe me."

The Mighty Warrior pinched the bridge of his nose, "Come with me now."

The man took a step back only to bump into the muscular body of a lion that was clearly in agreement with the hunter. Slumping his shoulders, he gave up and followed the Mighty Warrior through the hidden door to the throne room.

Thorrin found the king still standing in the same position he'd left him although with more of the Sirius royal family surrounding him, "Your majesty, I found this man hiding... dare I say it... Hiding in the walls. It seems there was a tunnel the criminals might have used to get in undetected."

"Are all the criminals accounted for?" the King asked in reply.

"No, there is one that hasn't been accounted for yet. Counting the one that was captured when Katie was on her way here, that leaves just one of them," Thorrin answered, reserving his comments concerning the sudden discovery of secret tunnels.

"He'd be foolish to attack without allies. But just in case, keep security tight until he's found. In the meantime, let's get Katie to safety and stable," Cole responded. Thorrin grimaced... the king wanted results. Results he hadn't yet presented.

"Very well, however, there might be just one problem."

"What might that be?"

"I'm sure you know about the werewolves that used to talk to animals. They have been known to show up and vanish just as quickly as they came. All we know about them are myths and legends. I had Marie look into the matter and she found one... here in Lycaon," the man said to the king.

"What does that have to do with anything?" thankfully, Cole's tone was still levelled. Thorrin was hoping he would stay that way by the time he was done with his explanation.

"I found a trend in how they used to appear. It was usually after or before the moon goddess had appeared in person to one of the royals," the man said, "If I'm right, which I usually am. They protect the places the goddess lands in and keep werewolves and humans away from them. They use nature to tame human routes and drive them away from those places."

"This history lesson is taking a long time. Is there a point to all this?" King Davin asked this time. The royals weren't as patient as the hunter had hoped, so he skipped to the end.

"The woman we are looking for can help us fix Katie. She has to know a way to reach the gods themselves. I'm hoping they can help with what's happening to her."

“What makes you think the gods are going to do anything for her? They don’t interfere with humans,” Queen Martha argued.

“I know that, but her condition was caused by divine energy. In a way, if she dies, it will have gods written all over it, sooo....”

“Blackmail, are you trying to get them mad?” King Davin chuckled.

“We don’t have to go that far, but if it means getting her better, I might be inclined to use it,” the Mighty Warrior responded. The doors of the throne room burst open and admitted the medics that Marie had called. Cole placed the girl on the stretcher and watched them take her away.

“Will it work?” a female voice filled the room. Cole turned to the source of the voice. Stunned, he watched the tears rolling down Sandra’s face as they took her friend away on a stretcher. Katie’s best friend... and the only other person that had always been there was something that was happening to her. Cole hadn’t known Katie nearly as long as she had. Perhaps, the only other person that knew her that well... was Kyle.

Chapter 339 [Bonus chapter]Still gat it!!!

After promising to rescue the daughter of a man she’d never met before, the old woman made her way through the forest on the back of the large brown bear.

Unlike Katie, she’d had her abilities for years and had gotten used to using them only as though she was breathing. When she commanded the creatures of the wild, they moved in a more organised manner, paying attention to her every thought as if she was the queen of a hive.

However, achieving this level of mastery over the ability hadn’t been that easy for her. There had been many times when the creatures grew tired of her control and sought ways of silencing her. At other times, she felt the power was more a curse than it was a blessing.

That’s why it amazed her when she saw the wild chaos that swarmed the girl that had only recently obtained the power to speak to animals. Katie was unaware of the magnitude of power she possessed, but she also didn’t seem interested in having it. ‘A very odd girl indeed...’

“Something’s on your mind,” the bear’s voice hummed, sending familiar vibrations through its rich brown fur.

“Yes, something is on my mind. I was there that day you all invited her to the forest, remember? She is something else,” the woman explained.

“Yes, that she is. And yet I’m not sure she realises it yet,” the bear’s voice was more formal than she’d heard it when speaking to Katie, but it didn’t bother her. They were different people. She didn’t expect to receive the same treatment as the princess did.

The old woman chuckled to herself and set her mind back on the task at hand. Following the majestic eagle in the sky, the bear forged through the forest at a reasonable speed, prioritising the old woman’s safety over that of the girl they were going to save.

They finally came across a small cottage in the woods. The cottage was well-maintained, no doubt belonging to the hermit that had been made to dig a way to the hidden tunnels of the palace, "And I was so sure those tunnels would never be opened again," the old woman sighed.

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"Someone's here," the bear's voice came, tensing the woman and wiping away her wandering thoughts.

"Of course, there is someone here. The girl we came to see," she tried, half-hoping the bear was wrong about his observation. After all, the woman couldn't see anyone from the distance they stopped to look at the cottage.

"No, there is someone else. I don't think that girl would have a heartbeat this audible," if the bear had the capability, he would be rolling his eyes at the implications in the woman's words.

"And here I thought I was going to have it easy," the woman groaned, dismounting and continuing on foot, keeping to the cover of the trees. 'I'm thankful I smell like nature itself. Otherwise, this man would have been alerted already... that is if he's a werewolf with a good nose.'

The woman closed her eyes and focused on the eagle in the sky, conveying a message that only he could hear. Soon enough, the eagle began to screech loudly.

The sound from the eagle being so close to the ground was almost unbearable for those with sensitive hearing. The bear took note of the woman's idea and circled about the cottage, keeping out of the obvious line of sight for anyone that would come barging out the front door.

Just as expected, the inhabitant of the cottage unlocked the door and exited in search of the source of the noise. The man looked up into the air for the bird that was giving him a headache.

While he looked up, oblivious to the rest of the new occupants of his surroundings, another sound to his right suddenly caught his attention and sent a wave of terror deep into his bones.

The glare from the sunlight made it hard to see what was happening as he had to adjust, but the sound was distinct and terrifying. Any rogue would know what animal made that noise, "What's a bear doing this close to the capital?" the man cursed.

A bear was coming his way and from the sound of its angry growls, it was out for blood. He reached for the door handle, but due to his temporary blindness and unfamiliarity with this specific door handle, he missed it and only stumbled further from the safety of the cottage he was trying to take shelter in.

Cursing loudly, he reached for the handle once more, this time more desperate than the last. His legs felt like they were made of jelly and the fear that gripped him only increased drastically, slowing him down even more.

The Voice of the Wild smirked, watching the bear tackle the confused man and knock him unconscious with one swipe of its mighty paw.

She emerged from the cover of the woods and approached the bear, almost skipping in excitement from the action she had just witnessed, "That was awesome. Exciting. Well done all of you. Looks like I still got it. Who said old people couldn't fight? Haha... Take that, Lawbreaker."

The bear... rolled its eyes, "You stood still and watched everything. You know what... You were awesome, my lady."

"You bet I was. Don't forget it. I'm unstoppable," the woman boasted.

"I have not and will never forget it, my lady," the bear dutifully replied. The woman, with assistance from the bear, got the man propped up against the cottage wall and tied him up with vines and rope they could find lying around.

When she was proud of their work, they walked into the cottage. It was as simple as it could get. With just enough to get the man and his daughter through the day.

However, after the ruffians had taken advantage of his abode, everything had been tossed this way and that. The old woman hefted the fallen table upright and set it in the centre of the room, wiping the beads of sweat that were already forming on her brow from the exertion.

Surveying the cottage, she searched for the item of her interest, the man's daughter. A pigeon fluttered into the cottage, sensing the woman's questioning mind and led her to another room which had the door wide open.

Chapter 340 Voice of the Wild, Guardian of the Forest, Nature's Puppeteer, Lurking Wolf

The woman hurried through the wide open door and froze at what she found in the room. Bound tightly in rope was a young frail girl sleeping in an untidy bed. There were scratches all over her body and fresh cuts probably from the rough treatment she received from the rogues.

Her hands had been tied behind her back and the knot around her legs connected to them, keeping her in an uncomfortable position that didn't allow her any relief.

Salty trails of the deluge of tears she'd let down could still be seen staining her innocent face. One look at the girl was enough to realise that she had cried herself to sleep and run out of energy to struggle against the ropes that bound her.

The old woman got to work untying her. Deep red bruises were forming ugly rings on her wrists and ankles. Lacerations made by the rough rope mercilessly drew blood from the bruises. The sight forced her to cringe in disgust, 'I hope those heartless brutes get what's coming for them and then some...'

Once the girl's limbs were free, the woman made an effort to carry the girl, but only managed to make half the journey to the main door before setting the girl on a sofa, panting heavily with exhaustion.

"In my younger days... she would have been... as light as a feather," the woman breathed heavily, falling into the space left beside the girl tiredly. This was the only sofa in the small cabin.

Aside from it, there was a brilliantly crafted wooden stool on the other side of the table. It wasn't still so beautiful anymore, however, scratches riddled its once beautiful polished surface, "It's like they were trying to rid the man of everything good in his life."

The girl sleeping beside the old woman looked like a healthy six-year-old. Besides the cuts on her wrists and ankles, she bore no scars on her body which was meant to be an impossible feat for someone that lived this deep in the forest.

“Your father has raised you peacefully... even though he’s only a lowly hermit,” the woman exclaimed before making another attempt at carrying the girl out of the cottage.

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She made it out the door and placed the girl at the threshold, “You were talking to yourself again,” the bear exclaimed.

“Yes, yes, I was... and that there...” pointing to the girl leaning against the wooden door frame, “That was me, okay. I was the one that carried that girl from her room to this place,” the woman announced, nodding in acknowledgement of her own feat—a seemingly permanent grin of delight set on her face.

“You’re going to have to hold her while I rush the two of you to the nearest hospital,” the bear replied, “If you ask me, you’ve barely hit your stride.”

“You’re no fun, Brian. You know that. No fun at all,” her jovial expression fell.

“I would be better having fun if I knew you were going to be safe. Make sure you’re comfortable before we start our journey. You could have stayed hidden as you have been. That was always so much easier,” the last part was said quietly, an opinion the bear couldn’t hold in much longer.

The woman, having rested, set the girl on the bear’s back and climbed on with her. She took note of the girl’s steady breathing and regarded the man they had tied up.

Nodding her head in disapproval, she dismounted, fetched the ropes that had previously bound the girl and reinforced the man’s bonds, making sure to leave him in a position that was much less comfortable and impossible to move in or escape. His hands had been tied together behind him and his legs pulled as far back as possible.

This position was much more strained compared to the one the little girl was in. Children also tend to be more flexible than adults. “Karma has to work some way... hmph.”

The discomfort was set to torment him only the moment he awoke and he would be relieved only when the king’s Warriors came to get him.

The woman ordered the eagle to stay watchful of the man as they left and started their journey back to the capital. The girl needed to get to a hospital, “Soooo, am I leaving you at the edge of the forest or are we storming the city?”

“We are storming the city, Brian. We are storming the city,” the woman screamed in excitement at her own plan. Reckless as it was, she was trying to attract as much attention to herself as she could which was the entire opposite of the purpose of her being.

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The ambulance took the Luna to the hospital in a rush, only allowing Cole and King Davin to ride with them. The two kings watched everything happen in heavy silence. King Davin’s daughter and King Cole’s mate. The two of them were no longer fighting each other. Or more like King Davin was done attacking Cole.

The new king of Lycaon had enough to worry about as it was. Katie was in an emergency room as fast as the paramedics could go and her family was soon gathered in the waiting room, patiently awaiting the doctor's results.

"Caden, where is he?" Cole asked the beta alpha that had managed to make it first.

"He's on his way with the rest of the Chase family that was present," the man responded, "He'll be here soon."

"Cole, do you have a plan in mind?" King Davin's curiosity finally broke through.

"I'm not sure at the moment. I knew this was going to happen eventually. Katie wasn't getting any better. I wasn't the only one who was worried though and I was working with the Chase family on the matter. They say they found some form of an answer," he responded, his voice distant yet again.

After a few more minutes of waiting, they could soon hear the rushing steps of a small number of people. Cole guessed they'd arrived but didn't bother to stand up to meet them. Micah walked in first, followed by the rest of his family.

To the king's(the two Kings) surprise, they saw one other person with them. A man covered in dirt, following Thorrin like a lost lamb. As it so appeared, Cole remembered the man from earlier, but now that he was seeing him again, he wondered what made him so important. Thinking back to their conversation in the Throne Room, he realised he'd rushed the Might Warrior in his explanation.

"What's he doing here?" was the first question out of the newly crowned king's mouth.

"He is the reason I can't find the person I'm looking for. She's gone by many names over the years, The Voice of the Wild, the Guardian of the Forest, Nature's Puppeteer, The Lurking Wolf... the list goes on and on," Thorrin explained.

"Those are names attributed to the myths of someone that can control nature. No one has ever seen her in person," Cole responded, somewhat agitated.

"I... If I may speak, I met the Voice of the Wild..." without even meaning to, all attention was now turned to the man that had just spoken.

He wasn't one to speak in the presence of a large gathering, not to mention one comprised of the most prominent hunter family and both royal families of werewolves. He'd spent his whole life staying away from these same three factions that ruled the world... and yet, here he was, capturing their undivided attention.