

Chosen 51

Chapter 51:

“What made her improve so fast after that day?” Caden asked.

“The adults explained that it was the way things happened when Prometheus granted someone a Prometheus gift. The gift enables them to reach new heights quite quickly and without having to do much, however, it eventually seems to hit a limit. A limit that can only be broken with intense training or so I was told. It was most likely that she was granted her Prometheus gift on that very day she took down the werewolf.”

“What was a werewolf doing there at that moment?”

“The wolf was being transported and one of its harnesses happened to get loose and it escaped. The wolf was being taken to the dungeon for interrogation. Intel suggested that the man was a close accomplice to the Rogue King. When he escaped, the hunters had been ordered to capture him alive and the first ones to come close to catching him found him dead at the hands of a twelve-year-old,” Sandra said.

“What happened to Katie after that?” this question had a different context from the tone Caden used to ask.

“Didn’t escape you, did it?” Sandra sighed. It was true that Katie was different after that, “All I can say is that she got quieter after that and showed less emotion as was required of her as a pro hunter. She was officially given licence when she was fifteen years old to prevent causing too much contempt amongst the younger kids, but she was a pro hunter far earlier than that. Nonetheless, even after she got her license, she asked us to restrain from throwing the title around.”

“Sometimes I don’t what to think of the tales of Katie Chase,” Jason chuckled, “It’s nothing to laugh about, but I can’t help it when a human seems too talented.”

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“I would say that I got lucky,” an alien voice interrupted the conversation. The three looked about frantically for the source, “Relax, it’s just me. I didn’t think I’d find anyone here. Where’s Cole?”

“He went out on a run. I’d say that he should be back at the hotel by now. Are you okay?” Sandra asked, remembering the tears on her friend’s face when she left the Hunter’s Agency.

“Yeah, I am. I just came here to do some thinking. I see you found some new opponents to train with,” Katie chuckled. “Can I spar with them for a bit? Though both of them because I don’t want to get bored with just one.”

“Won’t you use your Prometheus gifts?” Caden asked.

“Well, if you want to limit me, then choose one gift that I shouldn’t use,” she said.

“That still means we’ll be facing a pro hunter,” Jason groaned.

“Scared, I’ll go easy on you,” she coaxed. Just as the boys were about to get ready, a buzzing sound came from one of their jackets that lay in the shade under the trees by the treeline. Sandra ran to check on it and found a text that made her smile drop.

“It’s Cole. He needs the guys to return to the hotel,” she said. That was their cue to leave. “Katie, are you?”

“No, let them go. We’ll do this another time. I’ve been meaning to talk to you Sandra,” she replied, letting her muscles relax. The boys bid them farewell and left the cabin shifted in their wolf forms. The atmosphere changed between the two friends. Sandra hadn’t planned to be found out this soon by her friend, but coming back to train at this cabin had proved irresistible. “You’ve taken a liking to those boys.”

There was no doubting that. The speed with which they had gotten familiar with the werewolves was unnatural, “Yes, I guess I have. I also didn’t intend to let you find out about this extra training for a while.”

“It’s nice to see you pushing yourself even further. I would have thought having you in charge of protecting the school in my stead was enough training, but if you’d rather do this, I am not against it,” Katie said, turning to go to the cabin. Sandra looked at her friend and noticed immediately that her gait was slightly laboured.

“Are you okay?” her voice took on an informed tone that demanded the truth from Katie. Katie noticed this and sighed in response.

“I was hoping you wouldn’t notice. Come inside... I’ll tell you while we check out something,” Katie replied. Sandra followed her friend in anticipation. Something was going on with her and she wanted to know what it was. “Earlier when I ran off, I might have lost control of my emotions and triggered my wolf to come out. I didn’t shift, but I nearly did. The result was a whole bunch of muscle pains.”

Sandra gasped on hearing the news, “Are you okay? How did you stop the shift?”

“I didn’t stop the shift. Considering the drugs I was taking, I don’t even know if I would have shifted,” Katie said, leading her friend through the threshold. Katie got to moving the sofas in the living room so that she could free the carpet on the ground. Something beneath it sparked her interest. The underground bunker that was built below the cabin. It was considered off-limits to them until Katie got her license at the age of fifteen.

“What do you mean you didn’t stop the shift? How then did everything end?”

“I mean someone else stopped the shift from completing,” Katie said, getting to work on the lock and snapping it open. Sandra noticed Katie’s reluctance to finish the story. The way she’d arrived alone was cause for so many questions. Something drastic had happened and induced this state she was in.

“Who was it... was it Cole?”

“I wish it was Cole. Everything would be much simpler then since he’s supposed to be my mate, but no... someone else did it,” she said.

“You throw that point around like it’s something meaningless. Who was it?”

“The moon goddess...” Katie’s hand stopped at the handle losing all energy to follow through the motions. She dropped to her knees and put her head in her hands. “The bloody moon goddess saved me from death claiming something about destiny and a prophecy. Who does that?”

“A prophecy... Katie...”

“There is too much behind how I got to this town. Too many things are revolving around me. I know I have to be strong, but why couldn’t it stay the same as it’s always been?” she whispered. This was Katie disabling her emotional shield. It was moments like this that reminded Sandra that she was Katie’s best friend.

“Looks like we adapted well to the simple fact that you’re a werewolf, not to mention a Royal that managed to attain Prometheus gifts at such a young age and was put in charge of security for her school,” Sandra began, walking up to her friend and sitting cross-legged next to her, “You’re not alone in this you know. Don’t make me watch you.”

“I know, Sandra, I know...” the two stayed silent for a bit, allowing the comfort of their company to seep in. Katie’s finger kept tapping the latch nervously. Something had drawn her here and the nervous tick was now raising Sandra’s curiosity.

“Umm... what’s in the basement?”

“That’s what I’d come to check out. My guardians said something about some modifications for tomorrow night,” she said.

“What about tomorrow night?” Sandra asked. “Isn’t that the time of the dance during the Founder’s festival?”

“Yes, that is about it. It is also the time that will be near my birthday. I came to see where I’ll attend that from,” she said, lifting open the trapdoor.

They climbed down the stairs leading into the darkroom. A flip of a switch snapped the room into brightness. It had been cleared and one thing stood in the centre of the room. A large steel table very similar to what Katie never thought she’d have to be strapped to. The table bore steel cuffs designed to hold werewolves. The only other place such tables could be found was in the dungeons that they used to hold rogues.

“How the tables have turned!” Katie mused as she slid her fingers lightly across the table.

“Feels poetic...”

“Something that should be said by someone who is against me, don’t you think?” Katie pointed out.

“Yeah, that is true. Do you think that idiot was telling the truth though? About students going missing and yet in actual sense they had been killed in secret,” Sandra asked.

“The mission of the rogues is to eradicate all signs of humanity in the world, but they don’t do it freely. I thought of it and realised there is a possibility that he was lying. I went to school and checked for the students that have been missing. They are all fine. Chandler was hoping the clues that he was giving me about the perpetrator would get me to snap, but when that failed, he resorted to attacking what he

knew that I cared about the most so that he could pile up the stress and get something out of me,” Katie explained.

“What would drive someone to have such a motive in the end?”

“Rogues have a twisted way of thinking that’s unlike our own. Their pointless ideals are drilled into their minds at a very young age so that they mindlessly sacrifice themselves to achieve those same ideals. This is something that Ash survived. I don’t know how, but she wasn’t tainted by those ideals and was capable of being redeemed. To avoid giving in to such a dark life is much harder than to do so, but once you’re in, there is no going back,” Katie explained.

“You sound like you’ve thought of this a lot...”

“Yes, it is to help me figure out who it is that I need to take down...”

“You don’t even know how many of them that we are facing. We could be looking at so many more than the ones we faced that day,” Sandra pointed out.

“While that might be true, I will follow my gut on this one and find the last rogue. I know one is left and I’ll do everything necessary to catch them,” she said.

“I’ve been meaning to ask you. What happens after you shift tomorrow?” Sandra asked her friend, worry seeping into her voice while she said it.

Chapter 52:

The Sirius family watched the light of the moon goddess while it bathed the forest, the day having turned into night. “Father, how many aren’t affected by this the way the hunters are?”

“Well, this power freezes everyone except for Royals, so you can be sure that there is no hunter that’s currently active. Well, except for Katie... I wonder what happened to cause this... Just then, another light in the sky drew their attention as something... no, someone descended. The four wolves lifted their hands to shield their eyes and moved back into the cover of the hotel to protect themselves from the increasingly bright light.

The building shook under the force of something landing on their balcony. “Dad, what is that? I thought the moon goddess was the other side of the...” The light finally dimmed retreating to a single point where a man stood. He was dressed completely in white sleeveless armour with the head of a wolf carved into his chest. His body was built to rival even that of King Davin and the white equally matching.

“Father, is he your older cooler brother?” Drake joked.

“Very funny, Drake... No, this is the moon goddess’ mate, Darius...”

“Always the funny one, I see Davin. The name’s Sean and don’t you dare forget it,” the man spoke, though his voice came out somewhat irritated.

“It’s nice to see you again after so eighteen years. Did your wife come down the last time as well?” he asked.

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“No, that time she merely communicated through dreams and visions. Something that she can do just about any time. This, however, she can only do once... I don’t want to say that she made the wrong choice in using that chance now, but...” the man sighed, his irritation wearing off while he stared off at the place they all knew the moon goddess to be, “this time it can’t be helped.”

“Are you here to hang or did you come to tell us something about why Celeste decided to come here today?” Martha said as she brought their unannounced guest a cup of tea. Lina looked between her mother and the kitchen searching for an answer to her mother’s quick action. In the end, it was futile to try and figure when it was that her mother retrieved the cup of tea that she served their guest.

‘Mothers, it’s like they have superpowers...’

“Not really... I saw you guys watching and thought I might check in while my wife’s away. You ready for the weekend... Did you buy a gift for the birthday girl?” Sean asked.

“If you’re Sean, who’s Darius?” Lina pitched in.

Sean looked at the girl that had asked the question and took a moment to acknowledge her presence before answering in his somewhat passive tone again. For a moment, his face had shown a hint of an expression that had later come as a warning to Lina who covered herself up with the sheet that she had nearly tossed away. “Now there is a question I hoped I wouldn’t be asked to answer... Davin, that one is yours,” the man turned his face back to the forest.

“Darius is a Royal... someone who doesn’t appear much. He’s your uncle who you have never met,” King Davin said.

“I have an uncle that I’ve never met. I always thought you were an only child, father. Is he just as flashy as you would like to be?” Drake asked.

“No, he isn’t. If anything, he is just the opposite,” Davin replied. The king might have tried to hide it, but his family knew him too well. Something about his brother made shivers run down his spine no matter how much he tried to hide it.

“Speaking of Darius, he is not too far from here,” Sean said, “Just wanted to let you know. I can feel my mate retreating. She will be gone soon and I must be there to tend to her. Journeys this rushed never go without consequences.”

“I have one question. What was the reason for you coming to help me defend my child when the moon goddess already had another plan to get her to safety?” Davin asked. For as long as he’d known that his daughter was sneaked out of his own palace without his knowledge, he’d been searching for an explanation.

“The moon goddess believed there was a mole amongst the Royals, so she sent me to protect the child. As a representative of the moon goddess, it was clear that she didn’t intend to have the child moved. I was sent there that night with no knowledge of the plan either. I was so sure of my wife’s wishes that it would have been foolish of the traitor amongst the Royals to believe otherwise. Her plan was perfect,” Sean began.

“The moon goddess appeared to me the night before the attack through a dream and told me everything that was to occur and exactly what I was to do in order to rescue our daughter and have her

smuggled away. She also appeared to those two hunters and told them exactly where they were to meet us. I only travelled with my closest guard, Julia. She was sworn to secrecy and didn't tell a single soul, for she was to also be my way out of the palace and to the meeting spot that the moon goddess had prepared," Martha continued.

"While the Queen escaped, I made a flashy entrance and lay waste to the Rogues at the palace. Alas, I wasn't early enough to save the girl, but that was the goddess' plan as well. I was never meant to find that child and she was meant to disappear," Sean finished.

"Why was the child meant to..."

"Are you already forgetting what I've said? I don't have much time. There was a traitor amongst the Royals at that time. We don't know who it was, but it wasn't safe for the girl there. We had to get her out," he said, "As you have noticed, it wasn't long after the secret of the girl's whereabouts were distributed through the Sirius family that rogue attacks started to increase this far out."

"You do realise you are saying that there is a mole working for the Rogue king within the Sirius family. That kind of thing would put a dark stain on the mission we've staked centuries on achieving," Davin said, dangerously.

"I know what I just said. Don't make me repeat myself. I only told you this because I trust everyone in this room. So when I say the Sirius family, I don't just mean the immediate family. It could even be one of your closest allies. All I'm saying is that you watch your backs," he said, his feet lifting off the ground.

"I would like to think you would be asking us to protect Katie," the king said.

The man chuckled, "Of all the people in the world, that is the one person you shouldn't worry about. She's capable of protecting herself just fine. To the extent, I wouldn't be worried about her even if she was in the same room with the Rogue king."

With that said, the man floated back into the night sky heading to the moon and vanished from within its image. Soon after, a woman rose from the forest floating up in a similar fashion. The Royals were frozen at the mere sight of her and forced to take in her appearance in detail. She looked back at them and flashed them a hearty smile before continuing on her way, "Davin, what's going through your head?" Martha asked.

"I'm just wondering what was so important that those two had to stop by," he said.

"Did we seriously forget to ask something as important as that?" Drake facepalmed.

"Yes, my son, yes we did," he replied, "Though one thing is clear. The moon goddess was here to help Katie. What she was helping her with remains a mystery, however." The night began to turn back into day as the sun switched with the moon almost seamlessly, blinding the werewolves at the balcony and restoring the hunters.

"Any more questions... How did you... what happened?" Tom asked, noticing the atmosphere of the room. His gut rumbled with urgency, something extreme had just happened and he needed to know what it was.

“The moon goddess came down from her seat in the heavens to tend to our daughter. She must have been in serious trouble for that to happen,” this revelation seemed to strike Marie the wrong way.

“She was supposed to be going for an interrogation at the Hunter’s Agency,” she said.

“What interrogation?” Davin asked, a commanding tone taking over his voice. He could detect danger in the woman’s reactions and it did not rub him the right way. No one in the room liked what was going on. Marie checked through her purse and procured a phone. “Who are you calling?”

“Anthony, he might know what happened during the interrogation,” Marie said before walking to the balcony to talk to the man on the side of the phone call. This shut the rest of the room up while they waited on the results of the call.

“Do I really have to wait until after the shift is done? I would also like to see my daughter’s beautiful wolf. I bet she looks amazing,” Drake mused while scrolling through the contents of his phone, passing the time that Marie was spending on the phone.

Marie came back minutes later clutching her phone. Her fingers could not settle as she kept entangling them in a dance of nervousness. “Katie was warned before going into the interrogation room that she was to be taken advantage of once she was in and that the victim’s only purpose was to get to her. It’s still unknown how much he got to her because she did not show much of a sign while she was there, but she did display a disturbing amount of violence and murdered the victim using the torture devices that they had around. She then proceeded to walk out of the dungeon from which she vanished. No one has seen her since.

“Are you saying that she went missing?”

“No, what I’m saying is that the Director she be given time to herself and that no hunter was to engage her unless she asked for it. In other words, she was given a day off from work,” she concluded. The news could have been worse, but there was nothing in what Marie had said that explained anything that would cause reason for the coming of the moon goddess.

Chapter 53:

The rest of the day was slow and uneventful, a day that was supposed to be designated for rest. The investigation seemed to have reached a standstill. Katie ordered Sandra to get back home and rest for the remainder of the day while she handled the rest herself. She was not going to let what Chandler had claimed to go unchecked and decided to check the homes of every absent student until she confirmed they were all safe.

The Chase family was taught to follow their gut and not once had it ever failed them. As long as something mattered, everyone was bound to feel something amiss if something was wrong with it. However, even with all that training, Katie had not been able to save Ash and it still bothered her. She got done with the absent students that evening and decided to go to one last stop to take a rest, the same hill that she’d gone to with Cole the other day.

She did not tell him to approach her that evening or that she’d be there, but she hoped he’d show up. Nonetheless, she needed some time to herself. Patience played a key role in what she was trying to

figure out, as well as a well-focused unyielding mind. A buzzing sound brought her out of her thoughts. She retrieved her phone from her pocket to tap the answer button, "Hey, how are you doing?"

"Hey, Kyle, it's rare for you to call. Enjoying your sleep," Katie replied.

"Yeah, my sleep is divine. I'm sorry I couldn't be with you when... it happened," he said.

"It's fine... you probably had enough assignments to deal with. How much do I have to catch up on?"

"I was calling to say that I finished your share of the homework, so you don't have to worry about that. I'll teach you the rest of it when you get time. There is a concept in the physics that you said was giving you trouble a while back," he reported.

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"Oh, thank you. Much appreciated. Make sure you keep your Anti rogue mechanisms turned on to keep your house safe. We don't know how many of them are still present," Katie told him.

"You know I wouldn't do otherwise. Everyone says I shouldn't worry about you, but I can't help it. How's Sandra holding up?" he said.

"I sent her home. She needed to rest so I gave her the day off. Found her training with the alphas as well," she smirked, revealing the intel.

"Oh my, you think there is something other than training that's speeding up that friendship?" he asked, his voice perking up, begging for gossip.

"I honestly don't know, but if there is anything, then we'll find out soon enough," Katie chuckled, "You better get enough rest as well. Tomorrow is a long day. I heard you will be required to run one of the booths that will hold your rocket project," Katie said.

"Can't believe you were paying attention to that," he said, "Getting the rest of the team to work on their parts of the project over the phone has been torture..."

"Yeah, good luck with that... I'll come to check on you tomorrow then..." with that they bid each other farewell and turned off the phone and set it down. Laying down on the grass at the top of the hill, she couldn't help but feel the presence of someone watching her. Nonetheless, she did nothing to show her awareness and lay down spread-eagled on the ground.

"Who was that?" Cole's voice came. Happiness would have been the first reaction Katie would get if Cole's voice came out with the usual tone it had. However, at this moment, he sounded like he didn't even hope to be here.

Katie got up to see Cole walking up to her. He reached her and sat beside her, pulling up his knees and looking over to the setting sun. "I didn't think you'd come."

"I wasn't planning on it. Not really in a chatty mood, but I couldn't bring myself to stay seated when there was a possibility that you could be here. Why didn't you call at least?"

“Well, today is not a good day for any of us. I figured after the display in the dungeons, you’d be sick to the stomach and need some time to get those gruesome images out of your mind,” she explained, laying back down.

“What about you? Are you okay?”

“Well, I was able to prove that none of the students that Chandler claimed to have killed are all still alive. I guess his aim was to tick me off,” she said.

“Did he succeed in ticking you off?”

“He did... Quite nicely, I might add,” Katie chuckled lightly, “I guess there are things that can get through my emotional defence. Hunters are still human after all.”

“That’s hard to believe after what I’ve seen in the past few days. Who was on the phone?” he replied.

“It was Kyle... He was...” Katie stopped as her heart pounded loud all of sudden, a rush of blood going to her head and springing a miniature headache. Shivers ran down her spine when she thought of this.

“Hey, are you okay?” Cole asked.

‘Every time I think of just how surrounded you are. You will never see it coming... You will be so surprised when you find out who killed that poor traitor... someone who has been in that school for longer than you have. You will never see them coming. I pity you, Chase... no, all I regret is not having the opportunity to see the look on your face when you find out. My best bet is that now that all of this has happened, he won’t need to stay in hiding for so long,’ the words Chandler said rang out through her mind. Why was she thinking about this now?

“Cole, I have to go check out something at the school,” Katie said, her voice came out rushed and panicked as she picked her phone and turned in the direction of the school. Cole got up and grabbed her by the arms.

“Katie, tell me what it is that you are thinking about. What has gotten into you?”

“Just follow me, Cole. I don’t have time for this. I have to check something,” she begged the wolf.

“Okay, then, hurry. I’m right behind you,” he said. The moment he let go of her, she vanished from sight leaving him in absolute silence. ‘Damn, she’s fast.’ He thought while he let his wolf out.

The two were at the school in a few minutes, a large black wolf following Katie at a high speed. Katie rushed through the booths that were distributed in the gym and the hallways before moving on to those that had been arranged in the field. In each booth, equipment lay already set up. It was obvious that every project was already done by the time the Founder’s festival was set up. It wasn’t allowed for someone to set up their projects at the last minute.

She continued to the field where she zipped through the different booths. Some were demarcated with cardboard while others were left in open space with only a sign to show what they were about. Projects of all nature littered all over the field. She finally came still in a secluded area. Large cardboard stood with images of planets and the stars on it. It described space and what there was to know about it. However, there was nothing in the place. There wasn’t any apparatus or equipment. At the bottom of the cardboard were a rocket and the name of the student that was leading the project, ‘Kyle Dwyer.’

Katie continued to look through the poster in a frantic search for something. From the looks of the project, there was no sign that it had been cancelled, but with it incomplete the way it was, there was no telling whether it would happen or not. "This one is empty. What's going on? Katie, you are worrying me."

'I'm guessing you never know someone until they show their true colours. Katie was sure surprised to find out,' Kyle's words echoed through her mind. For a moment then, she'd thought she saw something wrong in the way that Kyle looked at Ash.

'The Chase family always follows our gut when dealing with acts of deception or things we cannot see... to answer the question you asked me one time... Yes, it is possible for something to go through one's defences undetected and that is through trust... you can't suspect someone you trust or else, trust itself loses all its integrity,' this was a lesson that had been taught once and never again. Based on their location, there was never meant to be such a problem and trust was something that was earned by someone.

"For a second there, I thought you weren't going to suspect me of all people," a voice came from the speakers that had been raised up at the corners of the field. "I called you just moments ago and you still sounded like you were my friend. Do you mean to tell me that you realised in that short time?" It was Kyle's voice. "Don't bother talking back because I won't be able to hear you.

I know, however, that you can hear me loud and clear. It was nice while it lasted. You're a formidable opponent and it would be foolish of me to stay in this wretched town any longer. How does it feel to know that you lost? To know that from the moment you set foot in Brigade High School, you've done nothing, but talk to your direct enemy. It was I who ordered the attack on the collection of people that Shaemus was so kind to collect for us. That idiot did such a terrible job that he didn't get enough of the junior hunters to lower their guard. I underestimated how much control you had over them. Nonetheless, it's been fun, Katie Chase."

Chapter 54:

"Cole, how far can your ears pick sound if you focus?" Katie turned to Cole without sparing a second. She had finally stopped her rushed actions and looked to be in deep thought over what was going on. Cole was slower on the uptake. He had been able to recognize the voice on the speakers to be someone that he knew... soon enough, he was able to recognize it to be the boy who sometimes walked with Katie, the name, however, came later than he'd hoped. Kyle was like a shadow to him as of the three boys, he did not talk to Cole at all and the two had developed an awkward relationship that was restricted to greetings and nods.

"At this time, there is nothing I can't pick up on school grounds and a little into the forest," he replied, perking up his ears to try and pick up the sound. A half transformation had them getting longer and pointed, allowing him to borrow the added range of hearing that werewolves had in their wolf forms without having to fully shift.

"And there is no one in the area, huh. Figures, I guess he's talking through the speakers through a wireless connection that he established. What a pain! A rogue that had an education... Odd," she said.

“No, the school is empty. Hold on,” Cole closed his eyes and focused, even more, waiting for that moment of silence. There was a bit of too much silence though. He managed to block his own heartbeat from the assortment of sounds that came into his ears. However, he found that he had to search for the second heartbeat that was of the person next to him. Katie’s heartbeat, if only for a moment, seemed non-existent.

After waiting for nearly a second, a heavy beat sounded from her chest going dead-silent in the next moment and staying that way for what felt like three seconds. The rest of the sounds did not cause any alarm to go off in his mind. Nature was undisturbed in the entire school and the immediate forest that surrounded parts of it that weren’t the road leading back into town, “All I can hear is your heartbeat slowing down incredibly and nothing else. Are you fine?”

“Yes, I did that to reduce the distractions so that you could focus on something else. Didn’t it help?” she asked as though what she had just said meant nothing at all.

“That’s creepy. It’s more of a distraction than a normal heartbeat that I can isolate,” he retorted.

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“Oh sorry, didn’t think of it that way. That rocket would have been fun to see,” she said, rubbing her temples.

“Oh, yeah, though it doesn’t look like a rocket project. More like something educational to show how much information on space that has been gathered by the student presenting it. There is nothing impressive though. Most of it just looks like those boring lessons of the solar system that I was forced to sit through in school,” he groaned, looking at the poster.

“Yeah, that’s true. I wonder what trigger was used to know that we’d reached this place,” Katie mused, “Wait, you paid attention in your science class?”

“What are you trying to insinuate by that?” he asked, “Of course, I pay attention in science class. Werewolves also have dreams beyond the pack, you know.”

“That’s very hard to imagine. With all the biology going on in those bodies, not to mention a certain goddess who’s constantly watching, I find it so hard for the

“You’ve been irritable today. Did my display displease you that much?” Katie asked. She’d been planning on keeping that to herself, but it was becoming excessive.

“No, it’s not you. It has nothing to do with you,” Cole began to walk heading for the exit, calling for Katie to walk with him with a nod. “Earlier, after you left the Hunter’s Agency, something else happened.”

“You caught that scent again?” Katie asked.

“Yes, I did. And this time someone stopped me from following it, someone who I didn’t expect to do so. It all didn’t make sense at all. It’s been bothering me ever since. I was told that the next I was to catch that scent, I’d find her. I don’t think I should be talking to you about someone else though. It’s quite weird...”

“No, it’s fine... if it helps you feel better, then go for it. Consider me a therapist,” she joked.

“Okay, Dr Chase... I’ve chased her down a lot that I feel like I don’t want to find her anymore. It’s irritating,” he huffed.

“Oh my... that bad, huh... Did they also tell you that you will find them sooner than you might expect,” she told him seeking his eyes.

“Yeah, I was told... wait, how would you know that?” it was Cole’s turn to get suspicious.

“Just a hunch... I’m still shocked that my best friend turned out to be Ash’s killer,” Katie said lightly. Silence took over them when she said that. She had to look back when she noticed he was standing still.

“What did you say?”

“Kyle, my best friend, always has his head in books...” she repeated.

“He’s a human. How am I supposed to believe that?” Cole raised his voice. He had his hand balled into a fist. ‘Oh, I mentioned Ash. I guess that realisation hadn’t gotten to him yet.’

“So, you hadn’t realised it... that the person I was hunting this whole time was Ash’s killer or did you think I was simply looking for one more rogue,” she asked.

“I know what you were hunting, but how did you turn on your best friend so quickly?” he said, “You sound so sure that he’s the killer almost as if it’s obvious.”

‘Cole, your words, they arouse so much anger in me. Why do you have to make it look like that?’ Katie felt like telling the Royal before her. His eyes shone a brilliant bright blue; his face was one of rage. Mixed emotions were clear in them as he looked at her. He was confused, angry, bewildered, murderous and yet hesitant, all this he showed on his face clearly. Katie walked up to the Royal until they were too close for comfort.

“The difference between the two of us is a small one hidden behind our ability to conceal our emotions. If I was like you, Kyle would be on the brink of death by now, but I can’t rush to that conclusion just yet. He was my best friend,” she said.

“How are you so calm about this? Ash is not coming back and you know who killed him. Why do you stay so calm like you didn’t just find out very important information?” he said.

Katie put her hand around Cole’s neck and brought him down so that she could listen to her more clearly, “Want to know something? Rogues are afraid of me,” she said.

“What’s that supposed to...”

“The only way Kyle would have the courage to do what he did and admit he was the killer was if he had already gotten far away and was safe in a hidden location. If he was still in Brigadia, I’d know it... in my gut. Kyle Dwyer is miles away from here...” she said, letting go of him and walking on. Cole remained transfixed to the spot. There was no doubt about it, Katie was livid... Cole couldn’t tell how he hadn’t noticed it earlier, her heartbeat itself was unstable as it kept speeding up and slowing down...

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Miles away from the town of Brigadia, deep in the forest that surrounded the remote town, a forest so thick that one would not think of staying there. The place was referred to as no man's land for its uncertainties. In a world like this, forests were used as country and town borders and no one was allowed to venture into forests that were out of towns. It was obvious that rogues could use places such as these as hideouts and as a result, hunters usually set out expeditions to sweep those parts and make sure there were no rogues within a certain radius from the settlement they were meant to protect.

Roads through these parts were built wide to reduce unnecessary accidents. The added employment of a hunter helpline for all such highways was another measure that was put in place to help broken down vehicles in need. Each travelling car was required to have a Hunter phonebook with a list of helplines for all respective highways. The war was clear once one was out of the safe haven of a well-protected town. The Rogue King had the whole world trembling just because of his ruthless force.

Deep within the forest, five men sat around a campfire gathering around it for warmth. The night was especially cold and the fire was dwindling in the wind. There was wood, but caution dictated that they would keep the fire minimum to avoid raising suspicion. It would have been easier to simply shift and have their fur act like a blanket, but that would increase the range of their scents and even help the wind carry it further.

A lot of measures had been put up for these kinds of people that didn't want to get caught and lacked the manpower to fend off an attack. The five men were rogues that had been stationed at this outpost to pick up someone.

"Just who is it anyway? The guy we've come to pick," one of the men asked.

"Don't worry about that. He's still a kid... about to turn eighteen too," another replied.

"Wait, so he's one of those spies that were dispatched into this region seven years ago?" the man asked.

"Not really, he is more special. He was dispatched nine years ago and has been in hiding ever since. The Rogue king says he's probably more important than all of us present here combined. To the King, he's the most important asset that the rogues have..." the man said. His voice was rough and he radiated power that dwarfed that of the other four. He was not an ordinary werewolf and was rather... an alpha that had been given power by the Rogue king himself.

Chapter 55:

The men continued to wait in the cold windy weather. A wooden cabin, covered in trees and mud to make it look more like an anthill in the forest housed their supplies and sleeping quarters, along with one other package that they'd been holding as part of the boy's plans. "Hey, Chad, do you think the package in there will last longer?"

"Yeah, that one's resilient... not going anywhere in my opinion. Just don't let your guard down," the alpha replied. "What I'm wondering is what's taking that brat so long to get here..."

"Well, if he's survived this long in the place they call the residence of the Rogue killer, then I don't see what the fuss is all about. He'll definitely get here," another said.

“I’ve heard these rumours about this self-proclaimed Rogue killer. I don’t think there is a hunter that’s deserving of such a name. Where did it come from?” another asked. This man sounded cocky and spoke with a passive tone that undermined the words of his comrade.

“So you haven’t heard the stories then. They should have reached you in your camp. I know you were only recently transferred, but haven’t you heard of the Rogue killer yet, Demitri?” Chad asked him.

“I’ve rumours and folktales of a blur that takes the life of all those that see it and that there is a designated distance from the town that triggers its awakening. I hear of all this, and yet I wonder how that information came to the rogues when there was never a survivor. It all doesn’t sound right to me,” Demitri boasted.

“Watch your words, Demitri. They might just be your last. The information, as well as the naming of the Rogue killer, was delivered by the same spy that we are waiting on. He has been able to get the closest look at the Rogue killer. Rumour has it that he was so good at keeping his cover that he was even able to speak to the abomination without being discovered. We all know of the sharp instincts that hunters possess. What I want to know is how that boy got past those defences and stayed safe for nine years without being detected,” Chad said.

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“You all accepted the rumours from a spy who doesn’t know how to get his stories right. What a bunch of wimps! I don’t think I’d ever let myself get taken out by a hunter if I was on a stealth mission. From what I heard, the Chase family is the only family with sharp enough instincts to detect a person on such a mission and even so, many have been known to sneak past them. My skills lie in that category. I just don’t see what the fuss is about,” he said.

“Maybe when the boy gets here, you will hear the story directly from him,” Chad said.

“The boy is already here...” a rushed voice sounded. The boy collapsed immediately he was in sight of the campfire, breathing heavily and dropping his rucksack to the ground. He shivered from the cold and gripped his bag searching for something.

“Took you long enough...”

“He doesn’t smell like a werewolf. Were we waiting on a human?” Demitri asked.

“No, part of why he went past the Rogue killer undetected is because he had his wolf suppressed. All the spies do so in order to blend in with the human population and gather intel on the werewolves and hunters,” Chad said, ordering another to bring something to cover the thin boy. The boy continued to search through his bag until he pulled out an orange bottle. A single rattling sound came from it indicating it contained a single item.

The boy threw the bottle to the ground and frantically searched the bag for something else, “Please be in here... I’ll be screwed if you aren’t...”

“What are you looking for?”

“I’m looking for my pills. If that medication wears off, I’ll shift before we even get to the werewolf king,” the boy said.

“Where did you leave them so that I can get them for you?” the boy stopped checking through the bag for a moment, his shivers leaving his body. The rest of the men present had also gone silent on hearing the suggestion. The boy raised his head to meet Demitri’s eyes.

“That would be the craziest things I’ve heard all day and trust me, I’ve heard crazy things today,” the boy said before realising Demitri was actually serious, “Wait, you’re serious. Do you realise that I don’t have my werewolf abilities, I’m thin as a twig with no athletic abilities and yet I ran here straight from the town at my top speed with no intention of stopping for a rest?”

“Well, considering you’re as thin as a twig. There is probably no way you could have devised survived if you were discovered,” Demitri replied.

The boy was amused by the man’s level of arrogance... or was it stupidity? He looked around and noticed the others did not say a word and didn’t look like they were going to say something. That confirmed his suspicions, Demitri did not know what he was talking about and was not going to believe anyone. This time the boy got up and dusted himself... he was finally breathing normally again, though his body had regained a bit of the shivering from the cold. The man that had been sent into the cabin came back with a towel which he placed on the boy’s shoulders to help combat the weather.

The boy walked up to Demitri and looked him straight in the eye, “Have you heard of the Rogue killer?”

“I’ve heard that it’s a rumour that you’ve made up to keep rogues scared of this place,” Demitri said. The boy remained quiet for a moment before falling to the ground in laughter. The rest laughed along with him although not as loud as he did. Chad remained quiet waiting for the boy to regain his composure. When it looked as though that was not about to happen, he spoke up.

“Kyle, get yourself together and tell the man,” he said.

“Yes, yes, it was just too hilarious...” Kyle chuckled before sitting up, cosyng up to the fire, “Anyway, since I got into my position as the Head spy of this remote town, I have never been able to give a well-informed description of the Rogue killer because of the way the communications were always time-sensitive. So you will probably be the first person that will be hearing this story in the way that I am going to narrate it,” Kyle said. The rest took seats on the ground around the campfire to listen to the tales of the Rogue killer.

“This must be good...” Demitri commented.

“Nine years ago... the Rogue King received intel that something that was of great value had been taken to this village for safekeeping. I was not given all the details to avoid information from leaking out just in case I was to be discovered as you know how the Rogue king uses his spies. I was, however, the first spy to be sent to this region and was immediately in charge of all the others that were sent here. I watched my target grow and gave constant reports. At first, the Rogue king was reluctant to take action and thought it best to leave the child to grow up and kill them when they least expected it. When security around the child was much easier to get past. However, he never thought she’d become what she is today,” he said.

“She...” Demitri chuckled, “The Rogue killer is a woman... I feel safe already.” This seemed to amuse him so much... well, why wouldn’t it? To the rogues, women were considered weak and it was impossible for

any of them to attain the level of power that men were capable of and as such, they were treated as breeders.

“Will you let me finish the story then? Perhaps you will find it less scary now that the fact of her gender makes you feel so safe and powerful,” Kyle replied.

“Oh, please go on...” It was at that moment that Kyle’s motivation to save this particular rogue diminished and he continued the story, cautiously leaving out parts that would have, without a doubt, scared him witless.

“When the Rogue King realised the girl had become more powerful than he anticipated, he sent rogues on stealth missions to snuff her out while she was still young. I would sit in school waiting for the news of rogues found in the forest, but not once did I hear such a thing. There was no proof that the rogue king had gone through with his words... that was until I contacted him on the matter. His answer scared me... He’d been sending parties of rogues and they weren’t returning. It wasn’t making sense where it was that the rogues were vanishing from.

Well, that was before I carried out my own investigation. No one... not even the Director of the Hunter agency or her parents themselves knew about it. Well, at first that is. Every single rogue that got in within a mile radius to the town would be killed, by none other than the Rogue killer. By the time we started wondering what was going on, we had lost over fifty rogues at the hands of a single person. It soon became apparent that unless a spy was sent to infiltrate this region, there was no way a rogue could get in.”

“Well, can I ask something?”

“Go right ahead,” Kyle replied. One of the rogues in their small circle retreated to the cabin and came back with a kettle which he set above the fire using a structure that he’d made from wood to suspend the kettle in the air above the fire by its handle almost like an adaptation of a rotisserie.

“Have you ever seen the Rogue killer in action?” he was asked.

“I thought I wouldn’t get to see it and only continued to report the information I was receiving. That was... until we were ordered to shake things up. The rogue king was getting desperate and wanted the girl dead... the Rogue Killer. I don’t know why... so he asked us to create a diversion and try to throw her off her game. Things got interesting when we tried to use the prisoner to our advantage. I watched each of them get taken down. It was quite futile to send untrained rogues at that age into an attack,” he continued.

“Nothing you’ve told me is cause for alarm... so I’ll ask again, where did you leave your medicine?” with that said, Kyle directed Demitri, the rest staying perfectly quiet about this course of action.

“If I don’t return by midnight tomorrow, then leave without me,” he said before starting his run in human form, his steps barely audible as he did. This already proved how skilled he was as his scent would have been hard for the royals to pick up, but Kyle knew that’s not what would have him caught. It was the same reason why he’d run from that town at top speed and made sure he was miles away before checking on whether she had triggered his trap yet.

Chapter 56:

When he confirmed she had indeed figured him out through the security cameras that he had hacked in the school, it was clear to him that for as long as he was close to Brigadia, he was a dead man and this urged him to run without stopping regardless of his terrible athletic abilities. He'd stumbled and fallen a number of times and the sweating had drained his body of the drug that suppressed his wolf. This was causing his eyes to flicker between yellow and brown. However, this also gave him a bit of werewolf strength to finish his run. After collapsing at the camp, his wolf had also gotten exhausted and stopped bothering him on trying to come out.

They watched their comrade leave the camp and stayed quiet for a while so that he would put some distance between them, "When are we leaving? If it's even tonight, I have no objections." Kyle stunned the rest with his words.

"Were you planning to drive him to his death this whole time? Demitri is really skilled, you know. He was transferred into this unit for that very purpose," Chad spoke. Kyle stared at the alpha with an astounding look written all over his face. If it wasn't for the bright red eyes that stared back at him, he probably would have overstepped and acted like the boss.

"I have a bad feeling about waiting for him. Katie Chase is not someone I want to mess with. I was only under her radar because I managed to become her friend before she had a chance to suspect me. That's why I've survived this long, but if she gets wind that I am still less than ten miles from her, nothing will stop her from finding me," Kyle tried.

"You sound delusional, boy wonder. There is no way that's going to happen. But why didn't you mention earlier that the Rogue Killer belonged to the Chase family... and that name?" Chad asked.

"I don't know if she belongs to the Chase family because she refers to them as her guardians, but she also doesn't know why that's the way it should be," Kyle replied.

Chad and the others shifted uncomfortably, thoughtful expressions on their faces, "It can't be... Is it too much of a coincidence? Does she possess a Prometheus gift?" he asked.

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"Yes, she does," Kyle replied.

"Why is the Rogue King interested in a hunter that young from the Chase family?" Chad was not happy with this turn of events. The fact that Kyle had left out these points was only because he was testing how hard-headed Demitri was and now he'd sent himself to his death with no knowledge of how dangerous the enemy was. Although, it was hard to think that a hunter could be as dangerous as Kyle proclaimed her to be. Chad himself was having trouble believing the child's tales.

Memories of the times that he'd spent with Katie ran through his mind confusing his priorities. Kyle was never able to see Katie fighting because she always made sure he was safe and away from the fighting. Her senses were too sharp for him to risk a stealth mission either. He wasn't very talented in anything other than his art of deceit. Killing Ash was the only dirty work that he'd ever been forced to go through, but that was just about it. His ideals as a rogue remained unchanged, however. And just as every rogue shared in the desire to end the human race, so did he. His cunning ways had kept him alive since he'd been dispatched as a spy in this region.

“There are some things that are reserved for the Rogue king himself. Making a decision based on his knowledge when it has leaked into his ranks could prove dangerous. Alphas have the desire to make such decisions and it makes it difficult if he has to deal with something like that,” Kyle explained his reasons for keeping silent when he was asked to relay more information on the Rogue killer and his findings while he was in Brigadia.

“Well then, that settles that. You seem confident in the abilities of the Rogue killer. Nonetheless, the least we can do is trust a dead man’s last wish and wait for him till the time we spoke of before leaving,” Chad spoke up.

“Such noble ways for a rogue... Did the ruffian ways of the rogues dull while I was on my mission?” he asked.

“No, they did not. Everyone’s still as boisterous as ever. You might want to work on those muscles if you are to survive in there. If it wasn’t for your special standing with the Rogue King, you’d be scraping the barrels at the end of meals just to get something to eat,” Chad chuckled.

“May I have your name at least?” Kyle asked.

“Chad... and that’s all you need to know. As for the name, Kyle Dwyer, there is not a soul among the rogues that doesn’t know it. Your tales of the Rogue killer have made you quite famous,” he said.

“I’m pleased to hear that. Although it doesn’t feel that way when it’s possible for me to find a dimwit like the one who just ran towards his death,” Kyle rubbed his temples. He’d done his best to make the stories believable and yet still keep the full extent of the Rogue killers ferocity, “I guess information loses integrity when it’s passed through many channels. Seeing as he was from a unit that’s not too familiar with this place, he must have heard stories that sounded far-fetched and even joked about it with his friends over a beer.”

After a moment of silence, the kettle began to hiss and the rogue that had set it up got to serving the tea. He added herbs and different ingredients to it that he’d found in the cabin. A closer look at the man’s face told Kyle everything that he needed to know about his behaviour. His cheeks were full and his body was more of fat than it was muscled. His arms were built with the muscle showing through undoubtedly, but his stomach stuck out loosely. This was usually how one could tell that the rogue was a chef. Even with their talents in the kitchen, they were still required to be strong such that they weren’t a liability during missions such as this one.

Kyle received the warm cup from the man and marvelled at how nice the tea smelt. He wasn’t good in the kitchen and so took the time to appreciate the explosive sweetness that erupted in his mouth when he sipped the cup. “Mario there is one of the best of them chefs... The Rogue king had him come with us so that he could give you five-star meals on your way to the hideout. Honestly, the man treats the spies like nobility,” Chad huffed.

“I’ll enjoy these privileges while they last...” Kyle said.

“What makes you think they’ll go away?” Chad asked him bewildered by the boy’s sudden choice of words. He spoke as though he was going to die.

“I don’t know why I thought of that. Living the life of a spy pretending to be the best friend of that... monster wasn’t as easy as it sounds. I thought I’d die the moment I was discovered,” Kyle did not want to say it at the moment, but as he told the others this half-baked excuse, his mind continued to warn him of danger that was to lie ahead, was the Rogue killer to find out where they were.

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Demitri ran through the forest at his top speed, keeping his feet skilfully trekking the quietest spots on the ground. Training in the art of stealth allowed one to run at their fastest and still allow them to produce barely a whisper of sound. Thoughts of the way the boy would speak did not leave his mind. He’d been directed to a house near the outskirts of the town that was apparently the only one without the anti-werewolf mechanisms turned on. That way, he would be able to get in without a problem. ‘Those guys better just wait and see. They’ll soon realise just how weak they’ve allowed their stealth teams on this side of the world to get.

Even for pro hunters, that many stealth teams would be impossible to defeat without having a problem, ‘The nerve on that boy... Making up such stories as though he thinks the rest of us will follow blindly. What is he trying to hide? Could it merely be that he failed at his task and wants a way to keep more of the rogues from investigating this place? What if he’s getting closer to cracking the...’ something hit his nostrils as he ran through the night bringing his thoughts to a stop.

‘Royals, many of them... what are Royals doing here? And why the hell so many?’ he brought his run to a halt and sniffed the air some more. This was so that he could try and figure out how many he was talking about, but the scents were too mixed up for him to distinguish between all of them. ‘All the more reason to stay in my human form... shifting would cause so much trouble for me,’ he thought as he continued on his way as predicted by his instructions.

‘One mile to the town... This is when the so-called Rogue killer was supposed to show up and...’

“Would you happen to know Kyle?” a feminine voice interrupted his thoughts driving his heart into overdrive. For a moment, all Demitri could hear was the sound of his own heartbeat. He hadn’t been able to pick up on the scent of the person that had found him. He could tell that the voice was directed to him despite how dark it was. There was no doubt that this person was talking to him. The voice was filled with so much malice that it shook him to his core. His resolve was starting to crumble as he realised that there was no reason for a civilian to be wandering out in the woods at night. He had not yet even reached the routes that he expected the hunters on patrol to be using. This person was too far from the city and had found him as though they had even planned to meet in this very place. ‘How long was she watching me?’ was all he could ask himself as he finally met the murderous eyes of the fabled Rogue killer.

Chapter 57:

Katie had let Cole escort her once they were done with the school. They walked on in silence, thoughts running through Cole’s mind while he thought about the new arrivals at the hotel. Katie must have picked up on his discomfort and poked, “What’s wrong? You’ve been on edge for quite some time now,” he said.

“Just remembering what I have to deal with back at the hotel. Anything to delay my arrival there,” he said. When the others had joined him at the hotel, he’d discussed the matter of there being Royals in the same hotel as they were. As of right now, they were to lay low and not cause any alarm as they did not know the reason for the presence of the Sirius family. His curiosity eventually got the better of him, “Hey, have you heard of Royals in town?”

“No, I haven’t... Are there any Royals in town that I don’t know of?” she asked.

“I was under the impression you would be able to detect them with your weird mojo...” Cole said, waving his arms around to emphasize his point. Katie rolled her eyes over his foolishness.

“That’s not what it is... I don’t know why the Chase family doesn’t simply teach this, but apparently, it’s frowned upon because of how far-fetched it sounds. Anyway, it’s just a gut feeling that every...”

“You can spare me the lecture. I know about that. I learnt it from the branch of the Chase family that serves the Lycaon family. They told me all about it, but when I carried out my own research and tried to find out more about it, they revealed that there was nothing I could do about it since that ability is drained out of a werewolf or simply because Prometheus doesn’t aid werewolves as much as he does humans,” he said.

“Talk about the gods really gives me chills,” Katie said.

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“I was under the impression you weren’t afraid of anything,” Cole teased. They were finally reaching the house that they walked up to just the day before. Katie could tell there was something wrong with the werewolf, but she decided to avoid poking any harder than she’d already tried. If anything, the one thing she could relate him to was someone who was trying his best to be patient about something and if she was right, he only needed to wait one more day...

“The gods are something else entirely... To think that this entire war was a result of one of their disputes is proof of that. The moon goddess plunged the human race into the...”

“Don’t speak like that of the moon goddess. She is the guardian deity of the werewolves. I would not have you sully her name so lightly,” Cole spat. Katie was taken aback by the sudden outburst. If anyone, he was the one person that shouldn’t have minded talking that way of the moon goddess and yet he defended her. This behaviour amused and yet pleased her at the same time.

“Does that mean you have nothing against her?” she asked him, seeking his gaze. They had reached the driveway that led to her house as their argument dragged on.

“I have nothing against her indeed. She’s not perfect, but she’s done a lot to try and make up for it,” he defended.

“Is the attack on the Sirius Royal family part of what she has done to make up for all this? The moon goddess has the ability to communicate with werewolves at will. Unlike Prometheus who doesn’t share the liberties of communicating with humans, Celeste has the...”

“That’s enough, Katie... What are you trying to achieve here? My thoughts on the moon goddess will remain unchanged regardless of what you say about her. Besides, even as you say all that and continue

to point out all her faults, I do not detect any malice behind your words. Only sadness... Is there something you would like to share... or is it something you also can't tell me right now and I should be patient?" the question was a direct attack. Just like the day before, he probed into information that she had no wishes of telling him.

"What's the harm in telling you?" she said, this time to herself, "This question I've asked myself over and over again. What's the harm in telling you, but everyone involved tells me not to. And that you must know at the right time. I don't know what the endgame is or what they are trying to do..." Katie fell silent, having let her emotions spill enough, her mind quickly curbed her irrational dialogue and forced her to shut up. She kept her gaze to the ground while she spoke, "Good night, Cole. Trust me when I tell you that you will find out when the time is right, but for now, there is nothing I can tell you..."

With that said, she walked up the driveway, with no plan of looking back to see what was going on with the face of the Royal. Cole watched her walk up to the front porch, trying to decipher the ramblings she'd let slip if only for a moment. He knew now that she wasn't the reason the information couldn't be relayed to him, but something else was bothering him. He was thinking over whether to reveal it or not. It didn't feel important at first, but the more distance she put between them, the more he felt like saying it, "The Sirius Royal family is in town and they are staying at my same hotel."

Katie froze at the mention of the Sirius Royal family. This was not at all what she'd expected when he told her that some Royals were in town. In fact, she expected him to be talking about the rest of his family. It wasn't that much of a surprise to have the Sirius family present on the day that their long lost daughter finally got to shift, but that didn't make it any easier. "I'll be looking forward to meeting them," she said before opening the door and entering the house.

She shut the door silently leaning onto it with her forehead with her eyes closed when she heard the click that signalled the locking of the door. Sighing, she was about to go through what had happened that day, but the room did not feel empty. No, in fact, both her guardians sat by the kitchen counter watching her regain her composure. "Long day, huh," Uncle Tom began having noticed her awareness.

"Yeah, long day," she replied. She walked into the kitchen, hugging Aunt Marie and going for the coffeemaker. The one addiction that this house could not get rid of. Once she had taken in a couple of sips, the guardians began their barrage of questions, asking for details on everything that had happened during the investigation. They asked for what she'd been doing the whole day after that and complained about how worried about her that they were.

She took her time answering each of their questions as she had only one mouth to speak and an audience that she trusted with her life. There was no doubt about it, she loved her guardians unconditionally. After what Cole had told her about the Sirius family that was living in Brigadia, she couldn't help but watch the smiles on her guardians' faces more intently almost as if it were the last time.

She arrived at the part of the story where she realised Kyle was Ash's killer and paused to let it sink in. "Are you sure about that?"

"Yes, I am. After I found out, I ran to school to see if he was lying about having set up his project for the Founder's Festival tomorrow," Katie said.

"I don't understand... How does that have to do with proving he was the one that killed Ash?"

"When I talked to Chandler, he told me that the perpetrator won't need to hide from her much longer and yet on my phone call with Kyle, he hinted on having coordinated the project remotely. I spent part of my day checking on missing students and managed to realise that one of them was supposedly working on his project, but when I remembered talking to them, they'd been playing video games the whole day and not working on the rocket instead. One more thing that drove me to that conclusion was the fact trust..." she said.

"The only way to get under the radar of a Chase hunter," Uncle Tom said, mid-explanation.

"Exactly... That helped me realise just how much I was on a wild goose chase. I thought I was missing something when I interrogated the students at the school on that day, but nothing was being misread. All the students were innocent. The one student who wasn't was also the one I couldn't suspect just because he was my best friend..."

"That about sums it up," Aunt Marie said.

"By the time I had those many pieces of the puzzle sorted out, it should have been obvious. But Chandler had given me one more clue that would lead me to him. He said the culprit was someone close to me. Someone I wouldn't see coming and that he'd been here for much longer than I'd realised. At first, I took that to be some kind of twisted game he was playing to try and get a reaction out of me, but it fit within the puzzle nicely. Unfortunately, when I got to the school project, nothing had been set up and there was no sign of the booth was going to be used the next day..." she continued to tell them about the recording and everything that happened after that.

"Umm, Uncle Tom, where have you been the past few days? My last memory of you is you torturing me about sleeping with Cole," she said, cursing herself for noticing later than she should have.

"Took you long to notice... I feel so loved," the man pouted.

"Yes, you are, Uncle... Yes, you are," she replied, raising her cup to him as a toast to how much he was loved.

Uncle Tom chuckled at the dismissive behaviour and gave up the tantrum before it got any further, "I have been tending to some new esteemed guests in our small town," he said.

"Would it happen to be... the Sirius Royal family?" Katie asked, forcing the words out of her mouth.

"Who told you about that?"

"Cole told me... He picked up on their scents earlier when he was at the hotel," she said.

"Fair enough..."

"Why can't I tell Cole who I am?" the question came faster than she could stop it. It had been eating away at her for a while and the way they'd reacted to her simply knowing that her biological family was in town did not help her curiosities.

Chapter 58:

“You allowed him to win your trust quite fast, huh?” Aunt Marie raised her brow at the young hunter.

“He’s supposed to be my mate. What am I supposed to do rather than let him in... and what if...” she was stopped in the middle of her rant.

“Katie, you’re getting emotional. Is this an effect of you being off your meds or are you starting to get feelings for Cole?” Aunt Marie asked, getting concerned for Katie.

“Aren’t Hunters allowed to have emotions as well?” Katie whined. It was unusual to see her get emotional after training her whole life to keep everything in.

“They are allowed to have emotions, but they aren’t allowed to have outbursts that display weakness. I thought we’d taught you this. Is there something wrong with the way we taught you the ways of a hunter?” Uncle Tom asked.

“What about in my own house?”

“Breathe, Katie... Breathe in twice, breathe out consequently. Destroy the images that attempt to crush your mental fortitude. Clear your mind of all negativities. Keep a smile on your face...” Aunt Marie recited. Katie did as she was told to try and clear her mind. The one thing she’d always done well is allowing the results of this exercise to get a hold of her.

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She stayed silent for a while thinking through why she’d allowed her mind to go off like that. “Is there a reason fewer people should know about me?”

“We realised something years ago... When we told the Sirius family of your whereabouts, it was then that rogues that increasing in number and it was also in that time that you began to grow. After you’d killed your first rogue and began learning to use your Prometheus abilities, you began to do the unthinkable. You began taking care of all the Rogues in the town that the other Hunters just gave up on that activity.

Your senses were sharpened and you could detect a werewolf before they even came to the patrol routes. You started to take them down so much that this town could no longer tell the difference from the time when it was just a remote town to the time when we arrived and started causing trouble for it,” Uncle Tom tried explaining.

“I know the story of how I earned the title, Rogue killer, but there haven’t been rogue attacks in a while now,” Katie said, “or my senses must be getting dull.”

“That’s beside the point... What we realised at the rogues were coming here to this remote town for a purpose and they had only started showing up after we had informed the Sirius family of our whereabouts. We couldn’t do anything about that and so the Hunter’s Agency decided to help us protect you. You grew up well and surpassed so many of the professionals. It’s still scary even for me who’s seen it all these years and watched it happen,” he said, “Anyway, there was no way of knowing who in the entire court of the Sirius family had caused the leak of this information to the rogues. That’s how we came to realise that the moon goddess herself must have had the same thing in mind when she set up the secret transportation of that newborn.”

“Wait, so you’re saying the moon goddess knew this as well?” she asked.

“Yeah, I wish you’d known of these suspicions so that you could have asked her,” Aunt Marie said.

“It’s okay. We have all the information we need to confirm that hunch. Who can you trust among the Royal family as well,” Katie asked.

“After trusting the Royals in the mission to rectify the errors that were committed by their ancestors, they lie below our radar of people we cannot clearly use our instincts on. It would be hard for us to find out who the traitor amongst them was,” Aunt Marie picked up from there, “We are sailing blind. We can’t tell them of our hunch and yet, we can’t do anything to unmask the villain. Accusing a member of the Royal family of such treason would bring about an uproar. The Chase family name would be stained and there would be yet another disastrous dispute.”

“I guess I understand where you’re coming from. However, it’s unsettling... It doesn’t answer my question clearly, why can’t I tell Cole?” I asked.

“I’m sorry to say this, but if Cole were to somehow know something about this and the information got to the Rogue king even without his intention, there would be a target on your head,” Aunt Marie said.

“Then what happens when I shift? Will no one know about my heritage then? Will you be able...”

“You can stop there. When you shift, we will have no trouble telling the world who you are. At that point, only a fool would dare go after the Rogue Killer with her reputation and face her knowing she was a Royal that possessed both Prometheus gift,” Uncle Tom said, a smirk forming on his face. He couldn’t look any prouder than he did at the moment.

“Then why does it feel like war is upon us?” Katie asked.

“Tomorrow must be an entertaining day... Don’t forget, you might be very powerful, but your union with Prince Cole means the rogues will no longer be able to multiply in number. Your very existence, dangerous or not, means the end of rogues...” this was a valid point. And as he said it, Katie was sure of what she wanted to say to him next. After what she’d felt when she’d stared Chandler straight in the face. His laughter when he felt so happy about having had Ash killed.

“Then I’ll kill all rogues... None of them will be left,” Katie said, passing her convictions on to her guardians. Aunt Marie smiled at the young girl, ‘The look in your eye... Keep that fire burning. You’ll need it to achieve this. You might have enough lives on your hands, but it’s nothing compared to what you’ve just said,’ the woman thought this while she watched her adoptive daughter continue to talk to her husband about the moon goddess.

‘What colour was her dress? Did she touch the ground? Was her skin really so flawless? What did her voice sound like?’ these were the questions that Uncle Tom asked along with any others. Some of them should have been inappropriate in the presence of his wife, but once he flew off the handle in his addictions, there was no stopping him. Tom’s fascination with the gods ruled his actions a lot and this was right where he wanted to be at the moment.

Katie described the goddess with utmost detail so as to indulge him while at the same time, she spoke of the moon goddess lightly that one would think they were childhood friends. Aunt Marie got back into

the kitchen and got to work with preparing dinner. “How bad was it? The pain of shifting,” Aunt Marie asked once it looked like her husband was about to finish the conversation and was out of questions.

“The drugs were making it worse than it was supposed to be... suppressing a wolf that was only doing its best to come out. It was like I was being crushed from both the inside and out,” she said.

“Do you think you would have...”

“I don’t know. If she hadn’t shown up, I don’t know what would have happened. I still have aches from the experience,” Katie explained.

“So, if I have this right, you won’t be needing the pills until our designated time tomorrow,” Aunt Marie said, just to make sure she hadn’t misheard anything. She finally finished her cooking and started serving the family at the counter. None of them seemed to be in the mood to haul themselves all the way to the dining table, which was... right next to them...

“No, I won’t need the pills until then. What are you guys going to be doing in the meantime?” she asked.

“Oh, I had forgotten... Tomorrow before the commencing of the Founder’s ceremony, you will be required to give a speech that commences the event as the head of security... and yes, you’ve been elected as Chief of security of this event. Don’t get carried away,” Aunt Marie quickly curbed the girl’s excitement.

“You’re no fun...” she pouted before digging into the food.

“Honestly, why can’t you be like any other normal teenager that likes doing things that will inevitably get them in trouble?” the woman rubbed her temples, information of how much her daughter was going to have to deal with going through her mind.

“If I was a normal teenager, you would have a handful of things to deal with. I would be one of those kids that has their hands in a project with the hopes of earning a scholarship from one of the big people that will be here tomorrow,” she said.

“Yeah, that’s true. Although this year, we might just have fewer people than we did last year because of what happened. News travels fast... many people know of the rogue attack and when you add the boy that was murdered on school grounds. It’s no longer considered the safest school in the world because of that reason and it’s impossible for a school to get back up in those rankings...”

Chapter 59:

Lina Sirius sat in the living room catching up on the latest survival series starring Jack Boggle, a boy who’d supposedly turned down the opportunity to become a hunter at the last minute just so that he could follow his dreams to be a star. The man, now age twenty-seven was part of a television show that had him venture into the wild. The parts of the world that were considered neutral territory and were restricted camping grounds.

Humans weren’t allowed in those regions without a license and this was the movie actor’s playing field. The show was now reaching airing the first episode of the third season and Lina Sirius was not going to miss one second. She sat with her eyes glued to the television in the living room, her dress code once again something to frown upon.

She cosied up into the sofa, pulling the thin sheets she had wrapped herself in for warmth while watching the opening theme of the show. Footsteps reached her ears along with the scent of her beloved older brother whom she ignored. Drake walked up to the table making sure to stay out of his sister's line of sight and picked up the remote to turn the screen off.

"Turn it back on, Drake," a seething Lina spoke, taking her eyes off the screen to acknowledge her brother's irritating presence, well it was irritating at that moment.

"Dad has summoned the family for a talk. They will be coming from their room real soon," he said.

"Oh, well, in that case, turn it back on so that I can watch until they get here," she pleaded. Irritating as it might have been, going against Drake was just a dream of hers. There was no way she would have gotten the remote from him if she'd decided to get violent. The only Royal in their generation that posed a challenge to Drake was Cole Lycaon, sole pride and joy of the Lycaon family. The boy was younger than Drake, but he could stand his ground against him.

"I recognise that man's hair anywhere. When you start watching his show, there is nothing that can take you off without you throwing a tantrum. We'll record the show for you so that you can watch it later, but I advise you not to go down that road," he tried reasoning.

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"Fine then... Record the damn thing... I was looking forward to watching that thing in real time," she sulked in her seat.

"Are you really planning to dress like that here as you do back home?" Drake asked.

"Only within the suite, but you say it like we are going to be having constant visitors..." this wasn't the second time she was being cautioned on dress code in this place. No one ever cared when she was back at the Sirius palace.

"Yeah, we will be having visitors often. Mainly hunters... I also know that there is a Royal from the Lycaon family living on the suite right below us. He has two alphas with him as well... unmated alphas," Drake emphasized the last point.

"Why are you worried about me? I'm a royal. I wouldn't let an ordinary alpha get the better of me," Lina complained though while she did so, she knew that her brother had a point. When it came to combat and physical strength, Lina Sirius was not a formidable opponent which she made up for in speed and endurance.

"I'm just looking out for you little sister. Better safe than sorry..."

"Let me guess... The occupants of the lower suite are Cole Lycaon and his two sidekicks, Jason and Caden..." she said.

"Yes, that is true... I personally have nothing against Caden, but Jason has a loose tongue and that doesn't say well to how he might conduct himself if we meet him with you dressed like that," he said.

"Fine, I'll change my dress code, starting tomorrow," she said, thrusting her hands into the air, "You happy now?"

“Not happy, relieved... You’ve had me worried,” he said.

“Unbelievable... Can’t a girl have some peace? Where are the parents you promised me?” she yelled before the sound of the elevator opening shut her up.

“Who else is coming in here after the hunters we had earlier?” Lina asked, getting up from her seat. Walking towards the elevator door, they found King Davin standing in front of it waiting for it to open. Something was not right... the king wasn’t dressed in flashy clothes like he normally did when he was getting out. Instead, he stood leaning against the wall in a pair of shorts... shirtless. He radiated more aggressive energy than he normally did... He hadn’t called the elevator up, someone was coming through it.

Queen Martha was the last to arrive as they watched the numbers counting up to their floor. “What’s going on?”

The elevator door finally began to slide open as though on cue... The scent that seeped out got all of them on high alert... Cole Lycaon stood on the other side of the doors with his two ‘sidekicks’ on both sides of him. “Long time no see... King Drake...”

Martha stopped midstep when he noticed Cole was not his usual calm self. He wasn’t here for chitchat... “Long time, boy... If I remember correctly, it was at the Royal games where our families competed against each other to capture the flag... That day was one to remember...”

“What are you doing here?”

“Straight to the point I see... I would ask you the same exact thing,” Davin said.

“My father sent me here because he thought it had the safest school in the world. Something has got him worried that I might still be targeted by the Rogue King. How wrong he was?” he said.

Lina had to be caught by Drake and restrained when she heard the insult to her sister’s efforts. They all knew Cole was unaware of the true reason that they were here and that he was not to find out until the time was right... Queen Martha relayed instructions to them as she was the only one that the Chase hunters could trust amongst the Sirius Royal family. As a result, she had asked that her family follow her orders without questions to keep the integrity of their family. This had the king immediately figuring out that there was a mole either at the castle or within the families themselves and he’d allowed the Queen to take her cautionary measures without excluding him from the bracket of suspects...

“I see Lina has grown up... Long time, little one,” Cole spoke...

“You’re not that much older than me, Cole. Now what brings you to our suite with an air of violence?” she spat the question.

“Oh, so you noticed... Forgive my foul mood, I don’t mean to cause much trouble, but I also have no desire to smile either. I’ll probably wake up different...”

“You sound like someone who is about to surrender to something,” King Davin spoke, striking while the iron was hot...

Cole lunged for the King his fangs drawn-out... King Davin kept calm as the boy lunged forward, skilfully evading him and pinning him in under a minute. The two alphas remained at the door, silently watching

their alpha being restrained. They noticed his foul mood for the entirety of the day, but had no idea what to do about it, "Let me go..."

"Will she want to see you like this?" Davin asked. Cole stopped his struggle immediately. Looking at the King through his side vision. There was no doubt in his mind that King Davin knew everything that troubled him from the statements he was using.

"What would you know?" he spat.

"I would know this... it's not long before your wait is over and that it won't enjoy it as much if you've given up the way I see you are about to..." he said.

"Stop being cryptic and just tell me..." he yelled at him.

"There is a mole in the families, Cole..." this information had the entire room gasping, "We don't know who it is... we don't want to point fingers. We don't want to cause any trouble that might damage the peace we've built with the humans for all this time. They are afraid of us. There has been an attack on the safest school by rogues who've been discovered to be fellow students. Hearing information about someone working with the rogues from within the Royal family will decimate everything we've worked for. As a result, information of high sensitivity is to be kept until it's no longer consequential... Patience, Lycaon... You don't have long to wait..."

"Straight to the point I see..." Cole replied.

"If someone had at least said that much, you would never have seen me in this state, but even she didn't say anything..."

"Who... Do you mean the moon goddess?" Martha asked, surprised.

"Would you get off me first, your majesty? I'm fine now," Cole said. His two alphas let out a breath that they didn't realise they were holding while Drake let go of his sister.

"You've really grown, Lina. You no longer look like the child you were," Caden said, snapping the room into silence. He looked around to see everyone narrowing their eyes at him. Jason, however, was walking to his alpha to help him up. "What?"

"That's something we'd expect from..."

"Jason," Cole finished the statement.

"Exactly... It's like you guys have switched roles. Jason, have you found your mate yet?" Martha asked.

Jason rubbed his hand through his hair while he thought through the answer, "I don't know. Something feels different, but I can't tell..."

"Could it be..." the king asked his wife.

"It could be, but issues like that can be frustrating if not handled with patience... Wait a bit longer Jason," she said. Jason gave a small bow before getting back to what Cole was saying.

"Yes, it was the moon goddess. She dropped during the day to stop me from reaching her. The scent appears and vanishes a lot... it's frustrating," he said.

“Let’s get something clear... We trust you as Cole Lycaon. Do not tell anyone other than those in this room about anything you’ve heard. There is a mole who’s either part of the Royal family or tends to them. I trust anyone with blue eyes that know what the Royals have been through in maintaining this period of peace. It falls upon you to keep your subordinates on a short leash,” Davin said.

“I understand... I’m sorry for the way I barged in... I’ll start over and greet you all properly,” he took the time to greet each of them individually like he would his own family, for they were... in a sense, family.

However, while he did this, something else barged into their nostrils... the foul smell of a werewolf that did not belong to a pack under the Royal families. The smell was irritating to the nose of a wolf that was not part of the group of ruffians that had made enemies with the entire world, rogues... “Everyone, stay calm. There is a protocol for this kind of situation. Do not forget that you are not home right now and as you might be Royals, must still refrain from taking the situation into your own hands.”

“Then what do you propose we do, O calm and collected?” Cole asked. The King retrieved his phone and began to dial a number.

“The hunters are more than capable of handling this,” he said before a voice came from the other side of the phone call...

Chapter 60:

Katie lay in her bed tossing and turning uncomfortably. The images of the day refused to leave her mind. The moon goddess’ appearance, finding out Kyle was a werewolf and not to mention, a rogue that was responsible for killing Ash. Ash had been a girl who had finally found a way out of the clutches of the rogues only to have her life taken away from her. ‘When I find you, Kyle, you will have a lot of suffering ahead of you,’ she screamed in her thoughts.

Katie walked out of her bed and got into the shower to soak and wash off for a bit. There was an easier way to get rid of the thoughts that plagued her mind, but a dip in the bathtub seemed appealing to her at the moment and that is what she had decided to go with rather than the painstakingly effective methods that hunters used. Sometimes one just got tired of simply shutting down their urges that cruelly. She allowed herself to relax in the tub for a period of twenty minutes while she let her mind exhaust itself with the needless worry.

She got out and dried herself off before walking up to her closet, ‘Honestly, this is not like me... I have to move on... worrying about the past will only let me miss the present and one can never know when a rare opportunity will come by...’ As if on cue, something snapped in her mind. A familiar rush she’d grown very accustomed to in the past. It had been long since she’d had this feeling...

Blood rushed through her system draining the drowsiness of the impending sleep from her eyes. ‘I didn’t think there was still a rogue with the guts to approach this place... They are getting cocky again.’ A decision for clothing was now made and it barely took her any time at all to dress up and exit the house through the window launching herself into the night... the moon was high and the air was cool against her skin... The hunt was on and the unfortunate rogue was soon within her sight...

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Katie's parents were talking downstairs after having bid their daughter farewell. At first, they'd indulged themselves in idle chitchat that had them laughing, but eventually, they had to talk about it... "What do you think will happen after tomorrow?" Marie asked her husband. It wasn't the first time they'd asked each other this question, but the closer her birthday approached, the more the reality of the situation dawned on them. They couldn't help but speculate.

"I don't know what will happen. This is new for both of us. Her parents were so eager that they even came here without our knowledge. There is even a possibility that they could have bumped into her, but that's unlikely, they would have recognised her instantly," he replied before chuckling, "Time flies, honey."

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"Yeah, feels like we only got her a few days ago... Has it really been eighteen years?" she asked.

"Yeah, it has been eighteen years... I'm glad the moon goddess kept her promise," he said.

"Oh, which one... the one to keep us young until we didn't have to take care of her anymore or the part of that promise when it explicitly states that we will lose her," she said.

"Don't speak like that..."

"I can't help it... Tomorrow is the day she will most likely be revealed to the rest of the world. There will be no hiding then. We know she can protect herself now and that..." she stopped her ranting when something struck a chord within her senses.

"A rogue... It's been a long time since..."

"Katie..." Marie was halfway up the stairs by the time she made the realisation of who else must have sensed the intruder. They rushed upstairs and opened the door to their daughter's bedroom. The wind blew the curtains in, the glass continuously rattled as it was banged onto the wall repeatedly from the force of the incoming stream of cold wind. The girl was long gone... on a hunt as she'd grown accustomed to.

"This will do her some good. I just feel sorry for the rogue that decided to show its face here..." Tom said.

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Katie spotted the Rogue running in human form. He was a grown man, unlike the young boys and girls she had been forced to slaughter not too long ago. His skills of stealth were astonishing as he zipped through the trees almost noiselessly. He seemed to have a destination in mind as he ran in a relatively straight line. She'd met a number of rogues that knew how to be stealthy and few of them matched this man's skills.

Using the map in her mind, she could tell that this man was headed for Kyle's house. Kyle always claimed his parents were always on business trips and that it was better for them to travel less to reduce their risks of an attack. It was now clear that the house was not actually owned by anyone. He probably paid the rent himself from the money he received from the rogues that sponsored his spying operation.

Katie ran in a fashion that matched the man's steps so that he didn't notice when she stepped on the ground. With this skill, she could follow him for as long as she wanted. She had a number of things that she wanted to do to him, but the most important objective was to take him alive. In the meantime, while she played her game of cat and mouse, she observed the man's features. He was clearly a fighter as his body was covered in scars.

He had astonishing endurance as he didn't break his pace the whole way or even start to sound out of breath. For one to keep such a pace and also stay as quiet as he was, they would have to run and rest the moment they got even the slightest bit tired as continuing would only cause them to lose the advantage of stealth with the noisy heaving.

Once they were a mile away from the town, the closest she'd ever let a rogue get to the town, she finally came to the conclusion that this man knew where Kyle was. She could tell because he looked to be headed in the direction of his house. Kyle had probably forgotten something very important there and this man was supposed to retrieve it. There was no telling which direction he'd come as it had become clear that rogues never used direct routes to avoid the possibility of hunters retracing the steps.

'My top priority is to capture this man alive... even if I have to break every bone in his body,' she thought before speaking to announce her presence. "Would you happen to know Kyle?" she asked him. The man stopped running instantly, allowing Katie to stop as well. She could already tell he was on high alert. His face, if only momentarily, was the epitome of fear. It was a common reaction whenever she found a rogue that was skilled in the art of stealth.

"So, I finally meet the one they call the Rogue killer," he said, his voice was hoarse and his accent sounded foreign, each word coming out forced and the syllables strained.

"What's with your accent?" she asked, amused for a moment.

"You're toying with me, aren't you? You're that cocky... You're a freakin' teenager. I'm not going to be intimidated by a..."

"Blah blah blah, you've been more boring than I expected. I wanted you to give me more of a challenge. Take a few turns on the way, notice me and at least try to throw me off course, but for two whole miles, you've been running in a straight line at the same obnoxious pace as if there is no one watching you. You seem skilled in moving silently, but when it comes to detection, you just suck," she said, making her voice sound like that of a judge in a competition.

"What do you plan on doing to me?"

"Oh, you really want to jump to that conclusion? Well, there is really no way out for you in this situation. I initially wanted to get violent with you, but the fear on your face was just too priceless. I lost my motivation when I saw it," she said, smirking as she riled him up.

"Is that so? I've heard many tales about the rogue killer, but none of them said you were a talker," he said.

"You're well informed, I'm not... I just wanted to grant you the honour of being the rogue to last the longest amount of time without an injury from me after we meet," she said.

“You know how to run your mouth. With how you’ve been keeping up with me, I know there is no way I’ll escape you, so in that case, I’ll just do what I was trained to do...”

“Oh, and what’s that?”

“Kill you...” with that said, the chorus of breaking bones and body metamorphosis began. Katie looked away for the most part of the process. She was feeling in the mood for a good fight to vent her frustrations and this wolf was providing the opportunity.

“Are you done yet? Growl when you’re done shifting... we need to get this over with,” rushed footsteps reached her ears in time for her to leap away. From the corner of her vision, she saw the wolf continue to lunge at her, its jaws wide open ready to tear whatever flesh it got a hold of. “That’s not fair, you know,” she whined before darting out of the wolf’s way at the last minute. The evasion got the wolf angry and prompted him to go faster on his next attacks.

After five minutes of what seemed to be futile attempts at trying to get to her, the wolf took the next option... dashing away in the hopes that it could escape her in its wolf form. Katie caught the wolf’s tail in one leap and pulled it back slamming it into a nearby tree, “I thought I told you that you can’t escape me. No matter what you do, there is no way out for you.”

The wolf shook off the dizziness and got up for its next attempt which Katie gladly allowed. The wolf circled her baring its fangs before dashing in the opposite direction when Katie least expected it. The hunter sighed and rubbed her forehead, nodding in disappointment, “He’s quite clever to know he’s beat.”

Demitri ran as fast as he could, thoughts of prayer to whatever god watched over the rogues out there moving through his mind. He had given it his all and the girl was not even out of breath yet. There was nothing he could think of that could work on her. How she could even see clearly in the middle of the night bothered him so much. Was she a pro hunter? From the way she’d tossed him around, she seemed to be a pro hunter, but then he couldn’t tell what Prometheus gift she possessed, he wasn’t light for a werewolf and at the same time, she’d caught him astonishingly fast. There was...

His thoughts came to a painful stop when something rammed into his side with a force he could only compare to that of a train as he imagined it felt when hit by one. The wolf flew into the tree nearby, the painful crunch of cracking bones filling the quiet night. Pain riddled his body and ran through his spine denying him the ability to walk. He panted on the ground, trying to keep himself from moving any more than he needed to. He hadn’t even noticed when he’d been hit or what had hit him.