

# Game of Destiny – A Thrilling Tale of Power, Love & Fate

Chapter 61

As we headed for the stadium for the third game, I felt better about things than I had done in a week. What Amie’s father had told her yesterday had changed things. It made me look at our situation in a new light and it made me feel better and stronger. It wasn’t just me. We had talked to the team and told them everything we had learnt. They all walked with more spring in their steps. We had a plan. Even if we had no clue what the third game was, we knew ways to earn points and valuable information on how to get out of tight spots. The steps up to our seats had never felt so easy to climb. We sat down and waited for everyone to take their seats and for the speaker voice to tell us what was going to happen. I was watching the crowd, searching out the now familiar places where packs of interest had their seats. Alpha James was watching Amie, trying to make it look like he wasn’t. It was made difficult because of his seat having it’s back to where we sat. It irritated me. I knew he was her mate and as such he had a claim to her. But in my mind he had given up that claim the second he rejected her. I wouldn’t let him get my good mood down. Instead I leaned into Amie and plucked a leaf which had got stuck in her braid and showed it to her.

“A little soon to be wearing a laurel reef,” I told her. She looked at the leaf and then at me. She shook her head, but I could see how close she was to smiling.

“Don’t joke around, this is serious,” she scolded me, leaning closer.

“Fine, but just for now,” I agreed. I sat back up and looked in Alpha James’ direction. He looked like he had swallowed a hornets’ nest. He wasn’t even trying to hide his stares.

“What has got James looking like someone stabbed his foot?” Amie asked me.

“I don’t know, but I like the look on him,” I told her. This time she actually laughed.

“You are horrible,” she said. I just shrugged.

“Welcome to the third game,” the speaker said. Saving me from admitting I had intentionally made Alpha James jealous.

“Today’s game is again played individually by the packs. We have set up four identical games. Like with the first game, you will wait here until you are taken to the area where the test will be held. Those teams who have lost one or more teammates will have a disadvantage in this game. As this is your own doing, we won’t do anything to correct this. Our expectation of you will be just as high as for the other teams. The game today aims to test your logical and strategic thinking alongside your ability to adapt. As always, we wish you good luck.”

“Well, this sounds like fun,” Jake said. Amie smiled and nodded.

“I came prepared this time. I was bored senseless during our wait at the first game,” Ramses said, waving a deck of cards.

“If I wasn’t mated, I would have kissed you,” Sam told him. The look of horror on Ramses face made us all laugh. We made ourselves as comfortable as possible and started playing cards.

“We should have brought cards, that is genius.” I looked up to see Amie’s brother standing beside her with a friendly smile.

“What do you expect from my pack? We are all geniuses,” Amie told him. “Elder, you remember my Alpha. This is Gamma Sam, Jake and Ramses. Everyone, this is my brother Beta Elder,” she introduced everyone. Everyone nodded towards her brother.

“I just came over to wish you luck and to tell you Becky would like to arrange a girls night with you. Whatever that means.

It would make me happy if you gave her a call when you have time,” Beta Elder said to Amie.

“I would like that. I’ll call her. And good luck right back at you. I managed to lure all of dad’s wisdom from him yesterday.” Elder made a face.

“Betrayed by my own father, that cuts deep,” he said in an over dramatic voice. Amie giggled and I just enjoyed watching them together.

“I have to go, you never know when they are going to call on us. See you on the other side,” Beta Elder said. He raised his hand in a goodbye gesture and we all mirrored it back. I liked her brother, I always had. It irritated me as I wanted to see him as an enemy. But he didn’t seem to want to lure her back to her old pack and he made Amie happy.

Around lunch a basket arrived with sandwiches and water from my aunt. We ate and then moved around a little to loosen up our muscles. Not long after, an official came to get us. We were transported to an area of the forest we hadn’t been to before. There was no sign of what the game was, or of an audience. Judging by how faint the smell was from other wolves, we were alone in this place and it had been quite some time since anyone else had been here.

“Please go through the door and stay on the wood floor until you have got your instructions,” the official told us.

Indicating a door set into a hill. Sam walked through the door first and I let the others follow him and I went last. We stood in a cave. The ceiling was sloping upward in a smooth tilt, clearly manmade. We stood in the area just inside the door where the floor was covered in wood. A step further ahead, the floor was the same natural stone as the rest of the cave. About fifteen feet in front of us there was a twelve feet high wall. The tilt of the roof made it impossible to see what was beyond it. To our right there was a door made of iron bars which led into a small room.

“Welcome Blue Mountain pack. You have just stepped into the third game, the dungeon. Your objective is to get all team members through the dungeon, preferably in one piece, and out through the door at the other end. You may do this in any way you see fit. You have no time limitation. But, as in all dungeons, a sacrifice must be made. Only four of you can be allowed to work through the dungeon. The fifth must stay, as our guest, in the room to your right. You choose who

stays. If you make it to the final door, you will have a chance to set your teammate free to join you in the final room. If you don’t manage to free them in the final room, they will be lost to your team for the rest of the remaining games. With that, good luck and I hope to see you on the other side. You can begin as soon as one of you is locked in the room.” We all looked at each other. We needed to leave a pack member behind? All my instincts screamed at me not to do it.

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“I volunteer,” Ramses said. We all looked at him. “No, they need your brain,” he told Jake before he had a chance to say something.

“Are you sure?” I asked. Sam and Amie looked to hate the idea as much as I did.

“I’m sure. I know I can contribute, but I also know the four of you are a strong team,” he told me.

“We won’t leave you behind, we will free you in the final room,” I promised him.

“I will be fucking pissed if you don’t” he told us as he walked into the small room and closed the door behind him. It locked and at the moment it did, a part of the wall to the left lit up. We all looked at it. It was symbols, shining like small lights.

“What is that?” Sam asked.

“Symbols, can they be a code?” Amie asked.

“I bet they are. You can see that most of them repeat. Oh, I wish I had a pen and some paper,” Jake said, sounding excited. We all looked around for more clues about what to do.

“There is a small fire in here to keep me warm. It has coal in it. Would that do, Jake?” Ramses asked.

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“It would do just fine,” Jake agreed. He walked over to the door and Ramses gave him a handful of coal. Jake and Amie

squatted down in front of the symbols, talking as they wrote on the floor.

“I don’t know man, this is taking a lot of time. What if we just climb over the wall?” Sam said. He walked towards the wall. There was an almost inaudible click and the air stirred.

“Get down!” I shouted. Everyone hit the floor without objections. A huge log with ropes tied to each end, swung down over the place where Sam lay flat on his stomach. Had he been standing, it would have hit him full force in the back of his neck. We all waited until it had stopped swinging. A hidden mechanism pulled it up and into the ceiling.

“Idiot!” Amie told Sam as we got back on our feet. “Do you know what Medow would have done to me if we got back with your head smashed in?” she hissed. Then she gave Sam a hug and walked back to where Jake was trying to decipher the symbols. Sam walked over to me, looking where he placed his feet.

“Not the smartest move I have made. Thanks man. She is right, Medow would have been pissed,” he said, rubbing the back of his head.

“Let’s try and be patient and let the two of them figure this out,” I told him and looked at Amie and Jake.

“Good plan.”

“I think we got it,” Jake said.

“What does it say?” I asked.

“In the beginning of time, a man stood looking into the forest. A wolf came walking by and asked the man why he was standing there. ‘I am too scared to go into the forest,’ the man said. ‘It is full of your brothers and they will eat me if I walk into the forest.’ The wolf looked at the man. ‘I will carry you on my back, my brothers will not harm you if you ride me,’ the wolf said. ‘I will show you the forest.’ The man was surprised. ‘What would you ask of me for this favour?’ the man asked. ‘I would ask for you to do the same for me. I would like to see the world outside the forest, the world of men,’ the wolf replied. The man agreed and climbed up on the wolf’s back and they explored the forest together. When they had seen all the forest, the wolf brought the man to the place they had met years before. They switched and the man carried the wolf all over the realm of man. When they had seen everything the man brought the wolf back to their spot where the forest met the realm of man. But they both hesitated. They had spent years in each other’s company, grown closer to each other than to anyone else. Neither of them wanted to be apart. The goddess of the moon saw their pain and in her wisdom she made them one, both wolf and man, so they never needed to walk in fear or be alone,” Amie read.

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