

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

Chapter 79

“I have stopped trying to figure out what they will throw our way,” Sam told us as we sat down in our seats in the stadium. It was a warm and sunny day and my mood was still high from the previous evening. My brother acted like we didn’t exist, Alpha James was nowhere to be seen, and Ramses’ shoulder was almost back to normal. It was a great day, and I had decided we would do amazing in today’s game.

“You look to be in a good mood, Alpha,” Jake said.

“I am. If we need to wait, today is a good day for it as the weather is amazing. We can relax and pretend we are just moseying around in the sun,” I told him.

“Welcome to the ninth game. Only two more games remain. If you think you need to gather points to secure a higher ranking, the opportunity is almost over,”the speaker told us. It felt strange that we only had a week left before we could head back home. Thinking back, it both felt like we arrived yesterday and like we had been here for a year. “Today’s game will test your endurance. Please head to the buses and all the information will be given to you once you arrive.” We looked at each other, that was new. We usually were giving the instructions for the joint games before we went to the buses to give us time to plan. We moved along with the others and got on a bus. We arrived at the big lake in the middle of the woods. The lake looked to be filled with rafts.

“Welcome to the lake and the ninth game. Every pack has been assigned a raft. Your pack will get onto the raft and the objective is to be the last pack standing. Each raft is made out of five logs. Each hour a log will be removed. Once the game is started, if any part of a wolf touches the water, that wolf is out of the game. After the log has been removed from the float, your support team may hand flasks with something to drink to our officials and we will deliver it to the team. No food is allowed. There is no time limit. Last pack standing on the raft is the winner. Points will be rewarded based on how long members stay on the float and how you work as a team. Please head for your designated float.” That explained why we didn’t get any time to plan, there was not much to plan.

‘Let’s take full advantage of the big float and sit down until we can’t’ Sam told us as we swam out to the float and got up on it.

‘The heat might be an issue. Make sure to rehydrate when you can and speak up if you feel the sun is getting to you,’ Amie told us. We spread out on the float. It was nice to be laying in the sun as we were still wet from the swim.

‘Will you be okay? You are the palest of us,’ I mindlinked Amie.

‘I put on sunscreen before leaving. It should be fine for a while,’ she told me.

‘Don’t push yourself too hard. If you feel the sun burning, get off the float. The rest of us can hold out,’ I said.

‘I will remember it. But I should be fine and I’m not the only redhead,’ she pointed out and looked at Sam. Stubborn as always. If it came to it, I would just throw her in the water. I lay down next to her.

The first hour was easy. We all had found a spot on the raft and were relaxing. The sun dried our clothes and there was a gentle breeze which cooled us. The signal sounded and we moved away from the log closest to the shore. It detached and vanished into the water. Not long after, a rowing boat with officials arrived and handed each of us a bottle. I opened it and sniffed. My aunt had made sure to not just give us water. It tasted sweet and a little salty with a fruit flavour. I drank half of mine and then made sure the rest of the pack drank. We all saved some for the hour until we got the next delivery.

The second hour was just as easy as the first. All the packs looked comfortable. We were sitting in a group, talking. Since we had burnt half of the deck of cards during the last game, we had to entertain ourselves. I stood up to stretch, there was still plenty of room to comfortably move around. Deciding I would remain standing for a while, I looked out over the

lake to see if the other packs showed signs of giving up.

‘You don’t have to do that, you know,’ Amie mind linked me.

‘Do what?’ I asked.

‘Shade me. I’m doing fine. Now stop wasting energy and sit down.’ I thought I had been subtle about my intentions, but she saw through me like always. Sometimes I thought she was a mind reader. I wasn’t an easy person to read as I was used to hiding my true intentions since I was a kid. I didn’t really have a good reason to keep standing, so I joined the others again.

‘Is anyone giving up?’ Sam asked.

‘No,’ I said. When the signal sounded again, we moved to the three remaining logs. We got new bottles and handed over the empty ones. We now had to sit in a row.

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‘No dangling feet in the water,’ Amie reminded us. As far as games went, this was starting to become boring.

‘Try not to nod off. The sun and the lack of things to do will make you feel sleepy,’ Ramses warned us. I could feel it. It was alluring to lean my head on Amies shoulder and take a quick nap.

‘Everyone up and on your feet,’ I told them. We all managed to get up and we did our best to move around a little.

‘I spy with my little eye, something brown,’ Jake said. We all turned and looked at him. ‘It always keeps the kids awake in the car when we don’t want them to fall asleep,’ he said. I grinned.

‘A log?’ I asked.

‘No.’ The game took off and continued as we sat down again. It wasn’t long before Amie nudged me and pointed at a raft nearby. One of the wolves on it had fallen asleep and she was swaying where she sat. Her pack mates seemed to be deep into a discussion. We all watched as she lost her balance and tumbled headfirst into the water. She popped up straight away, spluttering. After looking in confusion at the raft she just had been on, she sighed and headed for the shore. She was the first one in a row of wolves that ended up in the lake. Most fell asleep or lost their balance as they tried to stay awake by moving around. One pack had a member who was clearly starting to overheat. They carefully lowered their drinking bottles into the lake, not touching the water, and then poured the water on to her. Which caused her to be disqualified, as it was still lake water. Again the signal sounded. Another log was removed, leaving us with two. We got more to drink and we had all stood up.

‘How are you doing in the sun?’ Amie asked Sam.

‘I’m fine. I’m honestly used to putting on like two bottles of sunscreen when looking out the window in this kind of weather. I’m more worried about the others,’ he said.

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‘Yes, our Alpha is getting a little red on the ears and cheeks,’ Amie said. I did feel a little hot on my face, but it was hot outside. ‘At least turn your back to the sun,’ she added and looked at me. I rolled my eyes, but did as she told me. The two logs provided a stable base for us to stand on, but the heat and not being able to move around as much made it harder. We continued to play games to distract ourselves. Around us we could hear others falling into the water and soon the number of people on the rafts was visibly fewer.

‘Jake, are you okay?’ Sam asked. We all looked at Jake. His face was red and the top of his ears looked painful. Amie walked up to him and placed her hand on his forehead.

‘Time to take a swim,’ she told him.

‘I can hold out,’ he insisted.

‘I believe you. But there is no need to torture yourself. We have one game left, and everyone says it’s the worst one. Take a swim and make sure to keep all the stubbornness until the tenth game,’ I told him.

‘Yes, Alpha,’ he said, turned around and jumped into the water. ‘Fuck, that was nice,’ he told us as he swam away.

‘I might join him,’ Sam said. I smiled and slapped him on the back, almost making him lose his balance. But he regained it and glared at me.

‘Doesn’t look like you want a swim,’ I told him. The others laughed. As the fifth hour approached, I felt my face and ears burning worse than before. As the final log was removed, leaving us balancing on one, I was grateful the water bottles only contained water this time. I used some to discreetly splash on my face.

‘You should take a swim, you know,’ Amie told me in our private mindlink.