

# **My Hockey Alpha #Chapter 261 - Read My Hockey**

## **Alpha Chapter 261**

### **Chapter 261**

Chapter 261: Gone Girl

Enzo

“Nina, please run,” I pleaded with her as I began to feel myself shifting. “Go with Luke.”

Nina stared back at me with wide eyes, but Luke nodded behind her. I shifted, feeling confident that he would get her out of here.

I knew that she wanted to fight, but there were way more rogues than we previously thought, and they were ambushing from all around. Somehow, they managed to slip past our patrol. None of us even picked up their scents as they were sneaking up on us; somehow, they must have had some sort of protection spell or potion that was covering their scent. Either way, it was too dangerous, and none of the guns or weapons that people were using on the rogues were working.

Before Nina could reply, I shifted with Matt and ran off into the fray to help the other people who were struggling to fight the rogues. Until the rest of the hockey team came back, all we could do was try our best to fend off the rogues.

But maybe I should have stayed with Nina after all.

Because when I looked up in her direction, the last thing I saw was her sprinting down the street with the rogue leader in tow.

“Shit,” I thought to myself. I whirled around to run back to get in between Nina and the rogue leader, but by now I was completely surrounded by Rogues. I saw Luke ushering Lori and Jessica into a truck that was being driven by one of the townspeople; he looked up to see me and gestured wildly toward Nina. I nodded and saw the truck whip around in an attempt to catch up to Nina and the rogue leader, but

before I could get through the throng of rogues to follow them, I suddenly felt a rogue slamming into my side.

I skidded across the pavement, bits of fur and flesh from my wolf form shredding on the asphalt. Growling, I quickly rolled back up to my feet and healed myself while I charged at the rogue attacker. I caught it by surprise, sinking my teeth into its neck and whipping it to the side, where I discarded its whimpering body onto the ground. There was a break in the wall of rogues now, and I took my chance to bolt through it. I finally came out on the other side, although not without a few rogues on my tail.

At the same time, I looked up to see that the hockey team was returning. Now that everyone was within range, I used my Mindlink as their Alpha to give them orders.

"I'm going after Nina and the rogue leader," I said, my voice echoing in all of their minds. "Just try to hold off the rogues until I get back, and try to push them out further onto the road so they can't spread into town."

I sensed that my team all heard me and understood my orders, so I kept running. With my wolf's strength, I was able to pick up a considerable amount of speed and wound up catching up to the truck that contained Lori, Luke, and Jessica. Nina and the rogue leader weren't far ahead now, but the three rogues that were chasing me were also not far behind.

Suddenly, however, Nina veered off of the road and into the woods where the truck wouldn't be able to follow. The rogue leader leaped into the forest after her. The truck swerved around and sped off in the other direction to escape the other rogues and pick up more people, leaving me alone to chase Nina and the rogue leader.

I jumped into the woods after them and followed the broken trail where the rogue leader had crashed through, urging myself to go faster in order to get between them. Up ahead, I could see the rogue

leader's back, so he wasn't far. But suddenly, I felt something collide with me and the impact sent me flying down a small ravine.

There were a few brief moments that felt like an eternity, during which I tumbled relentlessly down the side of the ravine. My body slammed into exposed rocks and tree roots, causing me to get the wind knocked out of my lungs. When I finally tumbled to the frozen ground at the bottom of the ravine, I felt myself lose consciousness for a split second before I managed to regain my composure. I looked up then to see that the three rogues had followed me; their journey down was much more calculated than mine, and they were now surrounding me with their hackles raised and their teeth bared.

Snarling, I pushed myself up to my feet, only to realize that one of my ankles was broken and throbbing with searing pain. I needed to heal it, but at the same time I needed to defend myself against the rogues, who were closing in rapidly.

As I began to heal, one rogue leaped at me with spit flying out of its open mouth. I rolled out of the way just in time, causing it to slam into one of the other rogues. While they untangled themselves, I jumped back to my feet and tried to put some distance between myself and them, but it was difficult with my leg. It was healing, but slowly.

Another rogue charged at me. Its claws made impact with my neck, creating a large gash that dripped with blood. I fought back, however, despite my injuries, and let out an ear splitting snarl as I ripped into the rogue's exposed throat. I came up with blood and sinew hanging out of my mouth and spat it out onto the ground.

The other rogues, witnessing their comrade's throat being ripped out, took off in the opposite direction with a chorus of scared yelps and whimpers.

My leg was mostly healed now. I still needed to limp a little bit, but I managed to pick up my speed again and claw my way back up to the top of the ravine. Not far from me, I could make out the broken

trail where Nina and the rogue leader had gone again, and I followed it.

However, as I ran I noticed something else on the trail: a scent.

Nina's scent.

It was more powerful than ever, which only meant one thing: she was beginning to shift.

Part of me was over the moon with excitement, but an even bigger part of me was terrified, because everyone's first time shifting was known to be disorienting and difficult to control. If it was already happening at a time like this, there was a good chance that the rogue leader could easily kill her while she was in the midst of shifting.

Cursing to myself, I picked up my speed and followed the trail of her scent.

"Don't worry, Nina," I thought to myself as I pushed through the pain in my leg and ignored the blood clotting in my fur, thinking only about pumping my legs faster and faster. "I'm not going to let anything happen to you. Not now, not ever."

And finally, I did find her. But she was lying motionless on the ground with the rogue leader's paw pressed into her chest.

## **Chapter 262**

### Chapter 262: Shifting

Nina

I felt myself begin to shift just as the rogue caught up with me.

The feeling was overwhelming. It felt as though the world was spinning around me, and I was just holding onto the earth for dear life. I dug my fingers down into the frozen soil and groaned as it felt as though my bones were growing and changing inside of me, and felt a bit of vomit bubble up and pour out of my throat and onto the ground.

When I looked up, I saw the rogue leader's glowing yellow eyes staring at me from the shadows. A large paw stepped out into the moonlight, followed by a body and a snarling, grimacing face.

“Cora, if you’re going to shift, it needs to be right now,” I thought to my wolf, pleading with her to hurry up with the process. Even if I couldn’t fight well yet in my wolf form, I could at least run once it was over. I just hoped that I would be able to outrun the rogue leader.

“I’m trying,” she responded. “But I don’t have that much control over it.”

I groaned again, partially from pain and partially from terror. I tried to push myself up onto my hands and knees, but as I began to crawl away I felt my limbs shaking beneath me. I fell to the ground and began to drag myself into the underbrush on my belly, as though doing so would even help me to stand a chance at getting away from the rogue leader.

Of course, the rogue leader was now stalking closer to me. He was toying with me as if I was his prey. I pictured him behind me grinning widely as he came closer and closer, and at the same time his stinking scent filled my senses and made me gag.

Suddenly, I heard his voice echo in my mind.

“What are you running from, girl?” he asked.

Another groan escaped my lips. His menacing voice was so loud that it made my head throb and my ears ring, but I kept trying to drag myself forward nonetheless in a last ditch attempt to get away.

“You’re not going to get very far.”

“F-Fuck you,” I moaned, gritting my teeth against the pain of my bones and my skull vibrating under my flesh. Every fiber of my body was screaming out at this sudden change in my biology. Was it always this painful? When I had seen Enzo and the others shift before, it seemed so quick and easy. Nothing could have prepared me for this amount of pain; surely it was just like this the first time and it wouldn’t hurt like this afterwards.

The rogue leader came closer. I heard his mocking laughter echo in my skull.

“This is quite the spectacle. And what perfect timing, too. If I didn’t have a mission to complete, I would like to wait to see your pain as you shift for the first time. You know, some don’t even live through the first shifting process. It’s quite taxing on the body.”

“What do you want?” I snarled. “What is the Luna hiring you to do? You were a human once, just like all of the other rogues; why would you fight for someone who would murder your entire family?”

Once again, the rogue leader’s laughter echoed violently in my skull. He came closer. I felt a large, heavy paw press into my back, pinning me to the forest floor. No matter how

hard I struggled, it was no use. And no matter how much I begged Cora to shift already and get it over with, there was nothing that she could do. The process had already begun, and there was no stopping it or changing its course.

"I was never human," the rogue said. He removed his paw from my back, and while I was catching my breath and still writhing in agony from the pain of shifting for the first time, he dug his paw under me and flipped me over onto my back. Now, for the first time, I looked at him face to face. There was

something different about him compared to other rogues; something harder, more solid. He didn't look like any rogue or werewolf I had ever seen.

"What were you, then?" I whispered.

The rogue leader pressed his paw into my chest. As he did, he stepped on the vials of antidote in my jacket. The glass broke beneath his weight, causing blue liquid to seep through my clothes. If it weren't for the thick sweater beneath my jacket, the broken glass would have pierced through my skin.

When he saw the blue liquid seep out, he laughed again. His teeth were bared in an animalistic, yet strangely human, way. He was mocking me, even in his wolf form. Did he even have a human form?

"That antidote won't work, but it was a good try," he said. "The Luna made me herself. Genetically engineered me. Before me, the way I am now, there was nothing."

"That's impossible," I said, shaking my head.

The rogue leader didn't answer. He didn't have time to answer, because at that exact moment, Enzo leaped out of the forest and slammed into the rogue's side. They tangled together in a ball of teeth and growls, and began to grapple on the forest floor.

As they fought, I let out another whimper of pain and rolled back onto my belly. The shards of glass from the broken vials poked through my sweater and scratched my skin, but I didn't care. I pushed myself up onto my hands and knees and choked again on my own tongue as my throat began to morph inside of me.

Enzo and the rogue battled fiercely just a few feet away from me.

"Hurry, Cora," I thought.

And then... I shifted for the first time.

I felt myself being overcome with a flash of blinding light. My ears filled with the sound of ringing, drowning out the sounds of Enzo and the rogue fighting nearby. My body became engulfed in searing pain, but at the same time, I felt nothing. I felt weightless,

as though I never even existed at all; as though this human version of me was nothing but a temporary state of being.

Then, suddenly, all of it ended. The light, the sound, the pain, the nothingness. There I was, just lying on the forest floor... but I wasn't me anymore.

I stood, not on two legs, but on four. When I looked down, all I saw was bright red fur. The forest became bright, as though I was wearing night vision goggles, and all of my senses became enhanced at once; smell, sound, hearing, even taste and touch.

I realized now that the power that I had felt before, whenever Cora gave me a bit of her strength, was just a fraction of the true power that I had now. I felt more powerful than ever. I felt unstoppable.

And as Enzo and the rogue leader grappled on the forest floor beside me in a tangle of razor sharp claws and long, pointed teeth, I couldn't help but bare my own teeth.

My mate was in trouble, and I needed to protect him.

## **Chapter 263**

### Chapter 263: Healing Love

Nina

Finally, I shifted for the first time.

All of my agony melted away and was replaced by enhanced senses. Everything appeared brighter, smelled more intense, and I could hear for what felt like miles.

Not only that, but I felt stronger than ever; and my mate was in trouble.

The rogue leader had Enzo pinned down. Enzo was kicking underneath him wildly, but the rogue leader was incredibly strong. Despite Enzo's size and strength, the rogue leader was still managing to get the upper hand.

Baring my teeth, I didn't hesitate for a moment before I leaped onto the rogue leader. I was smaller than him, but that also meant that I was faster and more agile, and I leaped onto his back and sank my teeth into the back of his neck.

The rogue leader yelped and scrambled backwards in an attempt to throw me off of him, but I held on tightly. I saw Enzo climb back to his feet and attack the rogue leader while I had him distracted. He clawed at the rogue leader's throat, causing the rogue leader to throw himself backwards.

Unfortunately, this allowed the rogue leader to effectively throw me to the ground. But at least I managed to get him off of Enzo and lower his defenses. Enzo leaped at him again, and they collided mid-air.

“Run away,” Enzo’s voice echoed in my mind. “I’ll handle it from here. Just get to safety.”

I narrowed my eyes and a low, almost involuntary growl rumbled in my throat. It was a strange feeling, but it also felt entirely natural at the same time.

“No,” I responded. “I won’t leave you. Let me fight with you.”

Enzo didn’t respond, but that was only because the rogue leader slammed into him and tackled him to the ground. I watched in horror as the rogue leader’s jaws began to snap in Enzo’s face, slowly inching closer and closer to making contact with Enzo’s throat. One more moment, and he would have his teeth sunk into Enzo’s esophagus. Another growl escaped my lips and I charged at him, slamming into him as hard as I could.

I saw a flash of light from the impact. It disoriented me, but I managed to get the rogue leader off of Enzo. I scrambled to my feet where I fell beside the rogue leader, but he was also quick to get back to his feet and was now refocusing his attention on me instead of Enzo.

The rogue leader bared his teeth even more aggressively, long strands of saliva dripping down mixed with blood. “I should’ve killed you when I had the chance.”

“But you didn’t,” I replied, snarling as I did so. The rogue leader and I began to circle each other. Meanwhile, Enzo climbed to his feet on shaking legs. He seemed to be healing himself, as the last impact from the rogue made him hit his head on the ground. He also seemed to be limping, although I realized that he was limping before the fight ever started. He must have been attacked earlier, and this made me even more angry.

A wild yell escaped my lips in the form of a howl. I charged head-on at the rogue leader. He rolled out of the way, his mocking laughter echoing in my skull as I nearly charged head-first into a tree. I managed to come to a skidding halt in the dirt and whipped around, dodging another attack just before he ran into me. At the same time, I swiped my claws at him and made contact with his throat.

Blood dripped across the pine-covered forest floor. The rogue leader snarled.

Enzo came up behind him then. He seemed to have regained some strength from his healing, and while the rogue leader’s back was turned, Enzo leaped on top of him and sank his teeth into his neck.

The rogue leader let out a panicked yelp. He shook himself violently to get Enzo off, and because of Enzo’s weakened state, it worked. Enzo was sent flying into a tree. I heard



two sickening crunches — one from the tree splintering in two, and one from Enzo's bones colliding with the tree's hard surface — followed by a pained whimper.

The rogue was dripping blood everywhere. I lunged at him, furious that he had hurt Enzo, but it was too late. A loud howl escaped his mouth, and he took off into the forest like a flash of lightning.

I heard more howls in the distance.

Then, the forest fell silent.

Silent except for Enzo's whimpers.

Without realizing it, I shifted back instantly. I ran over to Enzo then and fell to my knees next to him, tangling my fingers in his fur. He shifted back as well as I held him, revealing bruised flesh and blood-soaked clothes.

"Enzo!" I cried out, shaking him as he laid motionless on the ground. "Are you okay?! Enzo!"

He didn't answer, aside from a pained groan. He was alive, but not for long; there was a large gash on his shoulder that was bleeding profusely, and his arm was completely broken. Bits of bone and blood stuck out from his skin. I clamped my hand over my mouth and stifled a choked sob, not knowing what to do.

"Mark him," my wolf suddenly said. "Mark him, and then you can use your mate bond to heal him."

My eyes widened. "Are you sure?" I said out loud. "Will it work?"

"Yes."

With shaking hands, I lowered myself down beside Enzo. Logically, I had no idea what I was doing. But somehow, deep down, there was a part of me that knew exactly what to do. I leaned down over Enzo and pressed my lips against his, shutting my eyes tightly. I kissed him softly as tears streamed down my cheeks, and as I did, I felt my wolf's power surge through me again; but she wasn't trying to shift. She seemed to be searching.

Suddenly, it felt as though she found what she was looking for: Enzo's wolf.

I didn't know exactly what happened after that. All I knew was that one moment, Enzo was laying limp beneath me and all I could taste was the blood on his lips and my own salty tears on my tongue. And then, gently, I felt his hand brush my cheek.

I suddenly pulled back and stared down at him with wide eyes. His eyelids fluttered open ever so slightly.



“Don’t stop kissing me,” he whispered.

I did as he asked. I bent back down and kissed him deeply, and as I did, I felt as though our souls were intertwining. I suddenly felt so whole, as though I had only been half of a person for my entire life leading up to this moment. And at the same time, I felt as though he was inflating beneath me, like he was an empty balloon from his injuries and I was filling him with air, with life.

Finally, I felt Enzo sit up as we kissed. He gathered me into his lap on the forest floor.

When we finally pulled away, I couldn’t help but laugh; his wounds were closed up, and his broken arm was completely healed.

And I felt more connected to him than ever. During those moments, I knew that I had marked my mate, and nothing could separate us now.

## **Chapter 264**

### Chapter 264: Primal Urges

Nina

Just when I thought that I was going to lose Enzo, the power of our mate bond allowed me to heal him. He sat up and pulled me into his lap on the forest floor, and when we finally pulled away, I couldn’t resist the urge to laugh out of pure joy.

Even though the rogues were possibly still out there, nothing else existed during those moments. Enzo’s soft brown eyes sparkled in the moonlight, and he kissed me even more deeply than before as his hands cupped my face.

Maybe it was the adrenaline from the fight, or the power of the mate bond, or the hormones surging through me from shifting for the first time. Maybe it was all three of those things. Either way, I found myself unable to resist the primal urge to do more than just mark Enzo... I wanted to mate with him, right there on the forest floor.

Enzo seemed to be able to tell. Maybe he wanted it, too. A mischievous smirk came over his face and he laid me down on the ground. We moved quickly, our hot breaths mixing together as we fumbled with each other’s clothes. I ripped at his pants, tearing the button open and unzipping them so that I could reach down and grasp his cock in my hand. Enzo let out a strained groan and yanked hastily at my pants. We didn’t have much time, but we needed each other right now.

I helped Enzo yank my jeans down just enough to expose my panties. He cursed under his breath at the sight of me, and then roughly flipped me over onto my stomach without a word. I let out a surprised laugh, followed by a loud moan as he quickly pulled my panties aside and thrust himself into me on the ground.

As Enzo worked himself into me, I dug my fingers into the dirt and felt my eyes roll back with ecstasy. He reached up and pressed his hand down into the side of my head, pushing the side of my face down into the dirt, but it only made me grin even more. My pussy exploded with wetness at this, and I arched my back and lifted my ass up to allow him to go even deeper.

“Fuck,” Enzo whispered, panting heavily. He froze for a moment; I could feel him throbbing, bursting to come, and it made my smile widen.

“Go on,” I said. “Don’t hold back.”

Enzo paused for a moment, debating this. Then, with a groan, he reached under me and rubbed my clit while he pumped himself a few more times.

I felt so full now when he finished inside of me. I didn’t even care that it was only a few moments of pleasure; it was all I needed right now to satisfy my animal urges.

And almost as soon as Enzo came, we heard the sound of voices and people running through the woods. Enzo and I both cursed quietly and quickly pulled our pants back up, just managing to hide the evidence of what we had just done before our friends crashed into the small clearing where we sat.

“Oh, thank god!” Jessica yelled, running over to me and throwing her arms around me. “We thought you were both dead.”

Lori came up behind her and yanked her off of me. With a strength that I didn’t even know that the small goth girl possessed, Lori grabbed me by my arms and hauled me to my feet. She then pulled her fist back and punched me in the arm as hard as she could.

“Ow!” I yelped, stumbling backwards and rubbing the spot where she had hit me.

“That’s for running off like that!” Lori shouted as tears streamed down her cheeks. She stared at me wildly for a moment, breathing heavily, before she relaxed and pulled me in for a tight hug. “And this is for being okay.”

I couldn’t help but hug my friend back. I supposed that I did deserve that punch for running off, so I didn’t complain about it. Besides, now that I had shifted, something like that didn’t hurt nearly as much as it would have before. I felt as though my skin was made of metal.

“Did you guys do something?” Matt asked, walking up to us. “The other rogues... They just ran off.”

Enzo and I looked at each other with wide eyes. “Really?” I asked.

Luke nodded. "There was a howl coming from over here, and then the others responded, and then they all left."

I let out a sigh of relief. "Their leader," I said. "Enzo and I fought him. He's tough, but we sent him running. I guess he called the others with him when he howled."

My friends' eyes widened then. "You both fought him?" Jessica asked. "How? Unless..."

I nodded. "I shifted. It started happening when I was running. If it weren't for Enzo coming to my rescue, the rogue leader would have killed me before I shifted fully. Which reminds me... The rogue leader told me something. I think it's important."

"What is it?" Enzo asked. When I looked over at him, he seemed to be in a state of disbelief. It wasn't as if I had time to tell him anything yet, considering the fact that we went straight from fighting for our lives to... well, fucking.

"I had several vials of the antidote on me," I said, gesturing to my blue-stained jacket that was now lying discarded on the ground. "That was why I lured him out here. I thought that if I could turn him back

into a human, the other rogues would lose some of their momentum without their leader. But he crushed them, and said that the antidote won't work on him because he was never human. He said that the Luna genetically engineered him."

Everyone's eyes went even wider than before; everyone's except for Enzo's. His eyes narrowed as he looked at me, and I could tell that he was annoyed that I had come out here with the antidote to turn the rogue leader without telling him. But what was I supposed to do? I knew that Enzo would have never let me try it. Even though it wound up not working in the end, I got some crucial information regardless.

"We should get back," Enzo suddenly said before anyone else could come up with a response. "They could come back at any point. Is anyone hurt?" he asked, turning to look at Matt.

Matt shook his head. "No, thankfully. A few scuffs here and there, maybe a concussion or two, but no one got severely injured as far as I know."

Enzo nodded. His face looked cold and thoughtful, as though he had once again reverted to Alpha mode. Once again, it made me worried that he was going to push away his own needs in order to lead the pack. And if he was upset with me over my plan with the antidote, then he certainly wouldn't talk to me about it now.

"Good," Enzo said. "Let's get back to the campus and regroup. If the Luna really is creating genetically engineered super-rogues, then she could very well come back with an army of them; and we need to be prepared."

## Chapter 265

### Chapter 265: New Recruits

Nina

As we walked back to town, it seemed that what Luke and the others had said was true after all. All of the rogues had left when their leader howled, and thankfully, not much damage was done. People seemed shaken up, but other than that, no one was severely injured.

"If anyone needs medical attention, come to the infirmary," I said, addressing the group of townspeople that still remained at our original meeting point. "I'll help anyone who needs it. The town is safe for now, though, so you can rest easy tonight."

"What if they come back?" a middle-aged woman asked, her voice shaking slightly as she held on tightly to her husband's arm. "They could come back at any point."

"If they come back, we'll be prepared," Enzo said, stepping in. "The hockey team will be patrolling the perimeter of the town, and we have people posted in various places to watch for any returning rogues. For now, it looks like they ran off to regroup, and they probably won't be back anytime soon."

Unfortunately, however, it seemed as though the townspeople didn't believe Enzo. I didn't blame them, either. The rogues were unpredictable, and whatever tactics they used earlier to sneak past our defenses were unlike anything that I had seen before. It was true that they could come back at any point, and with so few werewolves in town to fight, we wouldn't stand much of a chance if the rogues returned in greater numbers.

As we walked back to campus, I was silent. I kept trying to think of ways that we could prepare, because the rogues were bound to come back. And until we figured out how to stop both the Luna and the Crescents entirely, which very well could take a long time, we needed to know that our town was

being protected in the meantime. At the end of the day, we simply didn't have enough werewolves to defend ourselves.

However, I suddenly had an idea. As we were crossing the athletic field to head back to the infirmary, I suddenly stopped and whirled around to face Enzo and the others.

"I have an idea," I said. "It's crazy, but it would help us stand a chance against the Luna and the Crescents."

"What is it?" Enzo asked, cocking his head slightly and causing his curly hair to fall into his eyes a bit.

"I have the power of Claiming, remember?" I said, thinking back on the night that I turned the entire hockey team into werewolves. Although I had passed out afterwards from the stress of it all, it was a successful endeavor. And now that I had shifted and had my wolf's full power coursing through me, I was confident that my power of Claiming would be even more potent.

Enzo, immediately seeing what I was getting at, shook his head and began walking again. "No."

My eyes widened slightly, and I jogged after him a bit. The rest of the group followed, although they were silent at first. "No?" I asked, grabbing Enzo's arm. "That's it? That's all you have to say?"

"Yes," Enzo replied. "That's all I have to say. No."

I frowned, and looked around at my friends. "Well... What do you guys think?"

Matt, who had been the very first one to experience my power of Claiming, shrugged. "If you're implying that we should turn more people into werewolves to help us fight, I don't think it's the worst idea," he said.

Enzo looked over his shoulder to throw Matt a stern glare. "It's too dangerous," Enzo replied. "We can't just go around creating more werewolves all over the place. The only reason why I was okay with all of

you guys getting turned was because I've known you all for years, and I trust all of you. It's a lot of power to give one person."

I didn't want to admit it, but Enzo was right; it could be dangerous to give powers to the wrong person. But at the same time, the people of our town had just proven to us that they cared about Mountainview, and I didn't think that they would use their powers for evil.

"Enzo, the entire town just showed up to fight," I said. "The people here are good people."

"Okay, sure," Enzo replied, stopping once more to face me. "But that doesn't mean that we should just turn everyone into werewolves."

"Wouldn't it be voluntary, though?" Jessica suddenly chimed in. "We could put up sign-up sheets around town..."

"...And if anyone wants to turn back after the fighting is over, we can give them the antidote," I said, smiling at Jessica. She flashed me a supportive look and nodded. I turned back to face Enzo then. "Come on, Enzo," I said. "At least think about it. It's the only way that we can stand a chance at keeping our home safe."

Enzo was silent for a moment. He was clenching and unclenching his jaw repeatedly, just like he always did when he was brooding. He was silent for so long, in fact, that I was on the verge of giving up and walking away — but finally, after a lot of thought, he nodded solemnly.

“Alright,” he said quietly, staring at the ground. “But it has to be voluntary, and I want to intensively train everyone before any fighting begins. If I see even a spark in someone that could indicate that they’re planning on using their powers for evil, I’m forcefully injecting them with the antidote.”

I nodded, suppressing a smile. Even though Enzo’s method of making sure that no one would use their powers for evil felt a little extreme, he wasn’t entirely crazy for wanting to take that route. After all, we

did need to make sure that we weren’t putting the town in even more danger by giving powers to the wrong people.

...

The next morning, we had put posters up all around town and campus by breakfast time. Every shop and classroom had a sign-up sheet, and by the time I headed back to campus after putting up my last poster, I could already see some people lining up to put their names on the lists. I was surprised by the amount of people who were so easily willing to make such a huge change for Mountainview, but it filled me with pride more than anything.

However, as I headed to the dining hall for breakfast, I ran into the last person who I would want to give werewolf powers to.

“Hey.” Selena’s voice was sharp and staccato as she stopped abruptly in front of me. Before I could even say hello in response, she shoved one of the sign-up sheets in my face. “What the hell is this?”

With a sigh, I took the sign-up sheet out of her hand and folded it up. “It’s a sign-up sheet for something that you’re not invited to, unfortunately,” I said, trying to be stern without being overly mean.

Selena folded her arms across her chest and frowned deeply. “That’s not fair,” she growled.

I shrugged. “Until you’ve given me a good reason to believe that you wouldn’t use your powers for evil, you’re staying human,” I replied. “Sorry, but you can’t deny the fact that you caused a lot of trouble when you were a werewolf.”

For several moments, Selena just stared at me with a dark expression. Her lips were pursed, and she seemed to be struggling to come up with a response. But before she

could say anything else, I suddenly felt an arm wrap around my shoulder and looked up to see Enzo standing beside me.

“Hey, Selena,” he said.

Without a word, Selena turned on her heel and stormed off. All Enzo and I could do was look at each other and shrug.

## **Chapter 266**

### Chapter 266: The Ceremony

Nina

We held the Claiming ceremony that night at the cabins. It was a new moon, and the sky was dark.

At first, I didn’t actually expect many people to show up — if any. But slowly, as the night went on, more and more people flooded in. Most of them were students from the campus aside from a couple of townspeople, and surprisingly Enzo approved of all of them. By the time we decided to start the ceremony, there were at least fifty people in attendance.

However, just as we were about to begin the ceremony, I saw one last person shuffle up to the group. Their face was covered by the hood on their sweatshirt, and it was obvious that they were trying to hide; but with my new ability to see well in the dark, I saw them instantly. And I knew who it was, too.

“Selena?” I saw, walking up to the hooded figure. I heard her curse under her breath as she tried to walk away, but I quickly grabbed her wrist and held onto her tightly. “Selena, we just went over this earlier today. What don’t you understand?”

Selena groaned and pulled her hood down, giving me a dark look. “It’s not fair to exclude me,” she said. “Just let me go back to the way I was before. I won’t bother anyone. I hate being human.”

With a sigh, I looked up at Enzo, who had followed me over.

“C’mon, Selena,” he said, taking her by the arm. “I’m walking you home.” He started to guide her away from the group, but Selena struggled against him and almost seemed to snarl, as though she forgot for a moment that she wasn’t a werewolf.

“I have information!” she shouted as Enzo continued to lead her away. He was being more forceful now, as other people were starting to notice that something was happening. “Nina, just listen to me!”



Enzo stopped and looked over his shoulder at me. I was curious now, so I walked up to them and folded my arms across my chest.

“Alright,” I said, not fully believing her. “If you have information that can help us and prove that you’re on our side, I’ll let you turn back.” As I spoke, Enzo’s eyes widened as he looked at me.

“Seriously?” his voice echoed in my head.

“No,” I replied. “She doesn’t have anything.”

Enzo let Selena go, and she wrenched her arm free and scowled at him. “I have information on the Luna,” she said. “But I want you to turn me first.”

I held in a laugh and shook my head. “Selena, what makes you think that I would trust you enough to turn you before you even tell me anything?”

Selena scowled at me for several long moments. She gave me the same look that she gave me earlier that morning before she finally turned on her heel and stormed off into the night.

And with that, we began the Claiming ceremony.

...

After the ceremony, there was a party at the cabins. People needed to celebrate to boost their morale, especially after everything that had happened. However, I knew that Enzo wasn’t keen on partying at a time like this, and I found him sitting on the steps to one of the cabins by himself while everyone danced around the fire.

“Here,” I said, handing him a beer as I walked up to him. “Try to relax a little.”

Enzo silently took the beer and took a big swig. He stared up at me with his brown eyes without a word, but I knew that he secretly had a lot to say.

“Look,” I said, “I know you’re nervous about this. But look—” I gestured over to the party, where people were having fun. Matt was standing off to the side with a few new recruits and he was teaching them how to shift, which was causing a lot of awe and laughter. “Everything is going smoothly.”

Enzo looked at me quietly for a few more moments. Then, suddenly, he reached out and wrapped one arm around my hips. He pulled me close to where he sat and buried his head in my belly. I let out a soft sigh as I played with his curly brown hair.

Being with Enzo felt so natural now that we had marked each other. All of the back-and-forth between us all semester felt silly now, like a long-forgotten joke. Even with the

threat of the Luna and the Crescents on the horizon, I felt at peace with Enzo by my side.

Suddenly, I felt Enzo's hand slide up the back of my shirt. His hand was cold against my skin and made me shiver. When I looked down at him, I realized now that he was looking up at me with a bit of mischief in his eyes. He brought his hand around, tracing his fingers along my waist, and then moved aside my bra to give my nipple a pinch.

"Ouch! Hey!" I shouted, whacking him on top of the head and causing him to laugh while I felt my nipple go hard underneath my shirt. I couldn't help but laugh too, though.

"Wanna go inside?" he asked, gesturing with his head toward the cabin behind us?

I knew what Enzo was asking, and I couldn't resist. A smile spread across my face as I nodded in agreement. Enzo stood, taking my hand, and led me inside.

As soon as the door shut behind us, our beers were discarded on the floor and our bodies flew into a frenzy of locked lips and tangled limbs. I was already drunk from a few beers that night, and before I

knew it, I found myself laying on my back beneath Enzo on the bed.

Enzo reached down for my panties, which were already soaked. But at the same time, my new werewolf eyes caught something in the darkness. I stopped Enzo and pointed over in the corner, where a small bundle of rope lay on the floor.

"Rope?" Enzo asked, furrowing his brow. "You want me to..."

I nodded, biting my lower lip. Enzo let out a bit of a disbelieving chuckle as though he didn't believe me.

"I mean it," I replied, sitting up. "I want to try it."

Enzo froze for a moment, his brown eyes filled with a mixture of surprise and arousal. With a grin, he stood and walked over to the rope. I watched as he picked it up and inspected it in his hands for a moment before he returned to me.

"You know, now that I think of it," he said, placing his hand on my neck and pushing me back down on the bed so that it felt as though he was towering over me, "maybe I should tie you up. You're too wild, and you might run away."

My pussy throbbed at Enzo's words. I felt myself become even more wet as he brought my hands together above my head and tied them together, then tied them to the bedpost. "There," he whispered, leaning down so that his lips brushed my ear. "Now you're not going anywhere."

In the darkness, I saw Enzo pull his cock out. It was already fully erect just from tying me up. He slowly brought it up to my face, running the head along my lips, before he opened my mouth with his thumb and pushed his cock inside.

He tasted sweet and a little salty, and I relished in the taste. I was getting better at taking all of him in my mouth now, and although I gagged a lot, I enjoyed the feeling of my throat tightening around my

cock while he pumped himself into me. The added feeling of not being able to use my hands filled me with an added layer of helpless pleasure and left me craving more.

When Enzo was finished with my mouth, he pulled out, dripping my own saliva down onto my face and my chest, and grinned down at me while his cock throbbed in the air.

“What else do you want, princess?” he asked.

I couldn't help but moan a bit at Enzo's choice of words. “I want to cum,” I whispered.

The grin on Enzo's face widened. He leaned down over me and kissed me gently on the lips, swirling his tongue around in my mouth for a moment, before his lips trailed down my neck and my chest, over my belly, and down to my thighs. He looked up at me when he stopped down there and slowly pushed my thighs apart until they were fully open on the bed, and then slowly began to flick his tongue over my clit.

The sensation of his tongue running across my clit made my back instantly arch and made a moan escape my lips, but he suddenly pulled away, causing me to whimper as he grinned mischievously up at me.

“Beg for it,” he whispered.

“P-Please, sir,” I whimpered, twisting my hips to get closer to his grinning mouth.  
“Please...”

Enzo watched me writhe for a moment with that same smirk on his mouth before he finally relented and buried his face in my pussy. The cabin erupted with a chorus of my moans as I strained against the rope around my wrists, but I didn't care if anyone outside heard me.

When I had come sufficiently, Enzo pulled his wet mouth away and, without a word, sat up and pushed his cock in to fill the space. I groaned again, arching my back away from the bed. Shushing me, he

reached up and slid his fingers into my mouth for me to suck on while he began to twist his hips.

That night, I lost track of how many times I came. All I knew was that I could have stayed there forever with Enzo inside of me.

## Chapter 267

### Chapter 267: Werewolf Boot Camp

Nina

I woke up the next morning in the cabin to the sound of the birds chirping outside and Enzo moving around quietly. When I opened my eyes, I saw that Enzo was already awake and seemed to be getting dressed.

We had spent the entire night having sex, and I could feel the effects of it on my body now that it was morning. I was sore, but it was a good kind of soreness that was fading quickly thanks to my newfound werewolf healing abilities, and a smile spread across my face when I saw Enzo.

“Morning, hot stuff,” he said with a smile as he pulled his pants on. He came over to kiss me. I sat up, revealing my bare breasts, and covered myself with a yelp before anyone saw me through the window. Enzo just laughed.

“So... Is that what it’s like to have sex with your mate?” I asked, feeling a bit sheepish as I got up and started to get dressed.

Enzo chuckled. “I wouldn’t know. You’re my first and only mate.”

I blushed a bit at Enzo’s words. I felt a little silly, but not in an uncomfortable way. We finished getting dressed before we headed back to campus, and after a quick stop at the dining hall for a large breakfast to satisfy our raging appetites, Enzo suddenly stood and nodded to himself.

“Training begins today,” he said, glancing at his watch. “Are you coming?”

I looked up at Enzo with wide eyes. My cheeks were still full of pancakes, and I swallowed quickly before answering. “Right now?”

Enzo nodded and seemed a little sarcastic. “Yeah. Of course.”

I stood quickly and nodded in response. “Okay,” I said. “Let’s get started, then.”

...

Once we had gathered everyone at the athletic field, Enzo began his rundown of the grueling training session he had in store. Many of the new recruits were hungover from

the party, but Enzo didn't seem to care, and just kept reiterating the fact that the Crescents wouldn't care if anyone was hungover.

The training session began with a several-mile long run through the running trails in the forest. Enzo and I led the group of groaning recruits while he shouted at them like a drill sergeant.

"You just think that you're uncomfortable, but you're not," Enzo said to the new recruits. "Werewolves can run way longer than this. You have to let go of the mindset you had as a human."

After the run, he led drills on the athletic field. The new recruits did sprints, agility courses, and calisthenics. A few of the girls had to stop at one point, and I thought I even saw one of them throw up from the exertion. That was when I had had enough; as a doctor, I couldn't just allow Enzo to make students sick from training, and by now it had been hours of nonstop exercise.

"You're going too hard on them," I said as I walked up to Enzo while he was yelling at the new recruits to sprint faster during a relay race. "You're practically abusing them."

Enzo glanced at me for a moment with his stopwatch in his hand and simply shrugged. "They're werewolves now," he said, sounding too nonchalant for my tastes. "They'll be fine."

I frowned deeply and folded my arms across my chest. "A girl just threw up from all of the exertion!" I said. "At least let them take a break."

With a sigh, Enzo glanced down at his watch and nodded slowly. "Fine," he said, sounding almost annoyed at me. He then raised his voice to address the recruits. "We're taking a ten minute break!" he shouted. "After that, we're doing more circuits!"

The new recruits groaned and fell to the ground almost simultaneously as their legs gave out beneath them. I shot Enzo an annoyed look before I made my way over to them and started handing out water and taking vitals to make sure that no one got sick.

But unfortunately, the ten minute break flew by in a flash. Despite the new recruits' healing abilities, they were still having trouble keeping up. At this point, it began to feel as though Enzo was trying to weed out the weak ones.

As they did more calisthenics circuits, I watched closely for any signs of lightheadedness. But there were over fifty new recruits, and I was bound to miss one. Lo and behold, in the midst of one circuit I saw a sweaty girl running up to me and breathing heavily.

"Nina," she said, pointing. "Kayla... I think she's gonna pass out..."

“Fuck,” I whispered to myself. I then gestured at Enzo, making a sign for him to stop, and followed the girl over to her friend. The girl in question was doubled over with her hands on her knees and was heaving loudly.

“Ugh... I’m gonna be sick... Everything is spinning,” she groaned.

“It’s alright,” I said. I took one of her arms, and the girl who came to me took the other, and we helped her over to the bench. By the time we had her seated, Enzo was jogging over to see what was going on.

“What happened?” he asked. “Why aren’t you training with the others?”

“Enzo, this is too much,” I growled as I fanned Kayla’s face with a cloth and checked her eyes for anything strange. “I think it’s time to call it a day.”

Enzo stared at me for a moment. When I looked up to meet his gaze, I was both surprised and relieved to find that he actually looked a little remorseful; but then, his expression darkened a bit, and he shook his head.

“We still have half an hour left,” he insisted, then looked at the girl who was on the verge of passing out. “You can heal yourself and you’ll be fine. I’ll show you how. But you need to get back to training, otherwise—”

Finally, I had had enough.

“Enzo Rivers!” I shouted, standing and stamping my foot on the ground angrily as I poked my finger into his chest. “That’s enough! Send everyone home for the day and quit acting like a drill sergeant!”

For a few long moments, Enzo stared at me in shock. Even Kayla and her friend looked up at me with surprise written across their faces, but I held my ground and continued to glare angrily at Enzo. I didn’t care how good the sex the night before was; Enzo was being too harsh on these new recruits and it wasn’t fair to them.

Finally, Enzo let out a sigh and nodded. “Alright,” he said, sounding a little remorseful once again. He then turned to address the rest of the recruits. “You guys can all go home today. Come back tomorrow, same time.”

As the recruits slumped away and Kayla left with her friend, I gathered up my supplies and scowled at Enzo before storming off to the infirmary.

I didn’t like this side of Enzo. I understood that he was trying to take precautions and ensure that our little army could handle the Crescents, but this wasn’t the way to make people happy that they had

made the choice to become werewolves. And if he kept this up, then we wouldn't have an army anymore.

## **Chapter 268**

### Chapter 268: The Drill Sergeant

Nina

That day, Enzo was clearly agitated after the training session. I couldn't quite tell if it was because I reprimanded him, because he felt guilty for going too hard on the new recruits, or maybe if it was a mixture of both.

However, over the next couple of days the training sessions hardly improved in intensity. It really was beginning to feel as though Enzo was trying to weed out any weak recruits, but I felt as though he was just going too hard for anyone to be able to keep up. Even though the new recruits were all werewolves now with their own healing abilities and newfound physical abilities, he wasn't giving them time to adjust.

On the third day of training, it was an especially cold winter morning. It had even snowed a bit the night before, and the athletic field was covered in a fine layer of white powder. I had spent the previous night alone in my dorm as I needed to study for our upcoming final exams, and so shortly after sunrise I woke up and quickly got dressed to meet Enzo outside.

By the time I arrived, Enzo was already beginning to have the new recruits warm up on the athletic field despite the frigid weather. I was bundled up in my winter coat and warm clothing, but the new recruits were in their athletic gear. Even though werewolves were less susceptible to cold weather, it was still quite cold and especially windy on the open athletic field, and I was surprised that Enzo wasn't at least allowing them to warm up inside in the gymnasium.

As I approached, I saw that Enzo had set up orange cones all around the athletic fields. At the moment they were just warming up and doing some calisthenics, but even then he was still drilling them and pushing them to go harder.

"Come on, hustle!" he yelled, waving his stopwatch in the air. "I wanna see some improvement in your times! It shouldn't be taking you thirty full seconds to do twenty push ups!"

"But the ground is cold and it makes my fingers hurt!" one girl replied.

"You'll be fine," Enzo snarled. "You're a werewolf. It'll have to be a lot colder than this for you to be affected by the cold!"



I walked up to Enzo and stopped alongside him. A shiver ran down my spine as a particularly cold wind blew across the athletic field, causing my hair to whip in my face and some of the recruits to groan.

"Isn't it a little cold?" I asked, feeling myself stiffen against the wind. "Maybe you should at least let them warm up inside."

Enzo grimly shook his head, never tearing his eyes away from the recruits as they struggled through their calisthenics circuits. "The Crescents won't be giving us the luxury of staying inside when it's cold," he replied. "They need to get used to the physical demands of fighting in all kinds of weather."

I couldn't help but frown at Enzo's words. Yes, he was telling the truth, but it still felt too soon to be drilling the recruits like this. However, despite the dipping morale no one was giving up just yet, so I decided to just do my job as the team doctor and pay attention for any injuries.

As the morning went on, Enzo pushed the recruits through hours of more intense training. They did sprints, agility tests around the cones that Enzo had set up, practiced combat training, and even played a game of touch football to work on their strength and cardio. If I had thought that Enzo was a tough coach before when he coached the hockey team, he was even tougher now.

At one point, Matt and the others came to see what was going on. Matt stood beside me with his hands in his pockets, watching with me while Enzo coached the recruits on their sprints.

"Was he always like this when he coached you guys on the hockey team?" I asked, turning to look up at Matt.

Matt chuckled wryly and nodded. "Yeah, actually," he said. "Maybe not quite this bad. But when we first started out, none of us were very good, and we had some people on our team who weren't very serious about it. For the first few months, Enzo drilled us like hell. I remember going home and being so sore I could hardly move. It was worth it, though."

I nodded slowly and looked back over at Enzo. Maybe to him, the new recruits were like the new hockey team to him, and he needed to whip them into shape. I supposed that I should trust him, seeing as how his training methods had resulted in one of the best hockey teams in this part of the country, but it was still hard to watch.

However, as the training session went on, I couldn't help but get even more worried about the new recruits. They were noticeably fatigued by then, and it just didn't feel right to stand by idly and watch. When Enzo started to berate one of the male recruits for tripping and falling, I finally had had enough.

"Everyone, take fifteen and have a break," I said, walking up to Enzo. Enzo whipped around to give me a surprised look, but said nothing. I could tell just from the look on his face that he knew what I was about to say.

While the recruits sat down and drank their water thirstily, panting and moaning, I stopped in front of Enzo with my hands on my hips. "You're going too hard again."

Enzo chuckled slightly. "If you think this is bad, then you should have been there for the mandatory training sessions that all werewolves have to go through during adolescence," he replied, folding his arms across his chest. "This is nothing compared to that."

"So?" I asked, splaying my hands out to my sides. "Just because you had to train harder than this doesn't mean that it's fair to punish everyone. They voluntarily signed up to be here and you're

punishing them for it."

"You're not even taking part in the training," Enzo scoffed. "So I don't really wanna hear it."

My eyes widened at Enzo's words. "What is your problem?" I growled.

Enzo fell silent for several seconds. His eyes seemed to flash with a million different emotions as he ground his teeth together before he finally answered.

"My problem is that, once again, we're dealing with the consequences of one of your poorly thought-out plans."

"W-What is that supposed to mean?" I whispered, feeling hot tears beginning to prick at the backs of my eyes.

Enzo shrugged. "First, you ran off the other day with some grand plan to take on the rogue leader on your own. Then, you practically bullied me into going through with this plan to turn dozens of people into werewolves, and you're not even a little concerned that some of them could use their new powers for evil!"

My eyes widened even further. I felt tears pooling up in them as I stared angrily up at Enzo, obstructing my view of him. I opened my mouth to respond, but before I could, one of the new recruits suddenly spoke up.

"We're not planning on using any of our new powers for evil," she said, her voice shaking slightly. "None of us would ever want to do anything bad to our campus. We're just trying to protect the town that we love. Right, guys?"

The other recruits murmured in agreement. I quickly looked down and wiped my tears away with the back of my hand.

But when I looked back up, Enzo was gone.

## **Chapter 269**

### Chapter 269: Infantilization

Enzo

“None of us would ever want to do anything bad to our campus,” the new recruit said. “We’re just trying to protect the town that we love. Right, guys?”

But I wasn’t listening to her. I was looking intently at Nina, who I had made cry because of my harsh words.

I didn’t want to be here anymore; I needed some time alone. So, without a word, I turned on my heel and stormed off before anyone could stop me. I heard Nina call after me once or twice, but I didn’t turn back or even respond. I just kept going until I reached the back door of the hockey arena, flung it open, and went inside.

It had felt like too long since I had played hockey, so I made my way over to the locker rooms to get changed. As I got dressed in my gear, I just wished that everything could go back to the way it was at the beginning of the semester; with a few changes, of course. I was happier than ever now that Nina was my mate, but I just wished that we could be normal college students again instead of having to worry about fighting wars.

After I got dressed in my hockey uniform, I headed out into the arena and put my skates on before getting onto the ice.

I felt awful for making Nina cry. She was the love of my life, my fated mate, and I had said some really nasty things to her that I didn’t fully mean. But at the same time, she had done so many things recently that put her in danger, and she never talked to me about it beforehand. I just wished that she would communicate with me instead of making grand plans all on her own. I just wished that she would understand that I was here for her, and she didn’t need to go through things by herself anymore.

“Room for one more?” a familiar voice said.

I was just about to hit the puck into the net when I looked up and saw Matt standing by the entrance of the rink. He was in his gear with his hockey stick in hand, and shot me a warm smile. I nodded, not speaking as he got onto the ice and skated over to me.

We flicked the puck back and forth for a while, neither of us talking. It was relaxing just to play some friendly hockey with my friend, and if I pretended that all of the drama in the world didn't exist, it really did feel like old times.

"You wanna talk about it?" Matt asked after a while, his voice echoing around us.

I shrugged and stared down at the ice for several seconds before finally deciding to respond.

"I just wish she would talk to me about stuff first," I said. "Sometimes I feel like my point of view on things doesn't matter."

Matt nodded slowly, thinking, as he skated in a large arc around me. He dribbled the puck back and forth with his stick a bit, then hit it over to me. I took the puck and whipped myself around, picking up speed before hitting it directly into the center of the net.

"I think she feels the same way sometimes," Matt finally said as he went into the net to retrieve the puck. "Both of you have a habit of being a bit hard-headed. That's not necessarily a bad thing, but I think that you need to learn how to work together instead of against each other."

"We do work together," I said. "We make a good team. But sometimes, it's like she comes up with these grandiose plans and doesn't want to tell anybody, and it makes me worried about her. I feel like I have to follow her around like—"

"Like a little kid?" Matt asked.

I closed my mouth and stared down at the ice again. I hadn't thought of it like that before, but now that Matt mentioned it... I supposed that I did treat her like that sometimes.

"Listen," Matt said, hitting the puck to me again, "when you were gone, Nina was heartbroken. Everyone was worried about her. But at the same time, she held everything together better than you'd think. It was thanks to her that we got Tiffany's antidote back and were able to save the campus, and it was thanks to her that we now have been able to send the antidote all over the island to keep the Crescents from turning more people. Yeah, sometimes she comes up with these huge plans without telling anyone, but she's never failed any of us. I think that you need to have a little more faith in the fact that she's a grown woman who is capable of a lot of things. Stop treating her like a damsel in distress, and maybe she'll be more willing to open up about her plans to you because she won't be afraid that you'll try to stop her."

Matt's words hit me like a ton of bricks. And he was right, too; Nina had accomplished so much, all by herself. When Matt and I had found her in the forest after the initial attack, she had single-handedly retrieved Tiffany's medical supplies, gone into the

tunnels by herself to save Lori and Jessica, and had done all of this with a bullet hole in her leg. And that was all before she had her wolf, too. Not only that, but before all of that she survived Edward's torture. If it weren't for her overcoming his brainwashing and breaking into my cell, we probably would have both died down there. And then, of course, she led the expedition into the werewolf realm to save me from Selena. Matt really wasn't lying when he said that she was a capable woman, and I was proud to call her my mate.

After that, Matt and I didn't say much. We didn't need to; all we needed to do was play some hockey for a while, and by the time we finished, I was feeling a lot better.

"Thanks, Matt," I said, punching him lightly in the shoulder after we changed and were heading back out. "I'm glad you're my friend... and my Beta."

Matt chuckled and shook his head. Then, without a word, he walked out of the arena with a wave at me over his shoulder.

I decided to head back out to the athletic field after that. Honestly, I expected everyone to be long gone by then, but much to my surprise, they weren't. In fact, as I approached, my eyes widened to see Nina leading the new recruits in their training exercises.

"Good job, guys!" she shouted as the recruits sprinted around the cones. "Remember to let your wolf give you power, and you'll be able to do more than you thought possible! Just rely on your wolf!"

As I approached with my hands in my pockets, I couldn't help but smile. The recruits were performing better than they had when I was training them, and so I let Nina train them without interruption. Maybe she made a better coach than me after all.

And besides, I couldn't deny the fact that watching the way she worked with the wind in her hair, with her nose and her cheeks red from the cold, reminded me even more of how beautiful she was.

## **Chapter 270**

Chapter 270: Filling In

Nina

I watched Enzo storm off in the direction of the hockey arena. He was clearly angry, and if I was being honest, I was angry as well because of the nasty things he had said. I didn't think that he fully meant what he said, but it still hurt nonetheless and I had to blink back a few more tears.

"Enzo!" I called. "Enzo!" But he didn't turn around. With a sigh, I turned back to face the recruits, who were now standing around me with confused expressions on their faces. I

had no idea how to train them, and I felt like I was left with a job that I wasn't qualified for.

"Um... Should we go home?" one guy asked, scratching his head confusedly.

I sighed again and glanced at the time on my phone; there was still supposed to be another half hour of practice, and we really didn't have enough time to be ending training sessions early because of arguments. Enzo was telling the truth when he said that the Crescents — or the Luna's special rogues, or whoever we were really fighting against at this point — could show up at any time, and we needed to prepare.

"Um..." I felt myself getting nervous already just from the fifty recruits staring silently at me. "Let's just finish up with training for the day," I said. "How about... Everyone, line up over there, by that cone, and I'm gonna have you take turns running to the end."

The recruits all groaned, almost in unison, but lined up at the cone I was pointing at nonetheless. I scooped up Enzo's discarded stopwatch off of the damp grass and clicked it on.

"Okay," I said, walking over to meet the recruits. "On the count of three, I want the first person in line to sprint to the end and weave between the cones, turn around, and come back. Tap the next person on

the shoulder when you get back and then that person can go immediately. Okay? Three... Two... One!"

The first recruit, a girl, took off running through the cones. But her legs were tired and shaky, and she kept slipping on the grass. When she whipped around at the end, she slipped in the wet grass and fell with a yelp. Pausing the stopwatch, I ran over to her and helped her up.

"You okay?" I asked, to which the girl nodded tearfully. I bit my lip, thinking, as I realized what the issue was; these students didn't know how to channel their wolf's energy. I could tell that it came naturally to some, but not to all of them. I decided then and there that I needed to help them learn how to channel their wolf's energy if they wanted to perform well, so I waved them all over and began to give them instructions.

"When you're running, you sort of need to let go of your own inhibitions and put your trust in your wolf," I said, pacing back and forth in front of the students as I struggled to put into words how it was done. "If you don't trust your wolf, then it won't work. You and your wolf aren't really the same consciousness; you have to work together. Everyone, I want you to close your eyes and try talking to your wolf now."

The recruits all looked at each other confusedly before they closed their eyes one by one. I watched as they seemingly struggled for a few moments. Then, one girl suddenly popped her eyes open and grinned widely.

"I did it!" she exclaimed. "My wolf's name is Freya!"

After the first girl spoke, the other recruits slowly began to open their eyes and smile. Even just as they stood there, they appeared to fill with more vigor than before.

"Good!" I said, clapping my hands together. "Line up at the first cone, and try again. And this time, ask your wolf to give you strength and speed, and trust your wolf to do the rest."

The recruits lined up. The same girl from before started off, and on my count, she took off running at the speed of light through the cones. She wove deftly back and forth, and when she came to the end she spun around almost in a pirouette, then wove her way back to touch the next recruit on the shoulder. The recruits cheered as the next boy ran just as deftly through the cones, and by the time they had all finished, it had only been under a minute for all fifty of them to complete the course.

Enzo still wasn't back yet, so I moved the recruits on to their next activity and had them do calisthenics. I had them use the same method as before, which allowed them to power through their exercises with ease; some of them even went above and beyond, feeling themselves become more and more powerful as they became more used to their wolves.

After that, I had the recruits accomplish several more training exercises. The training session actually went on for more than half an hour, but no one was eager to leave as they were having too much fun training. By the end, they had returned to the cones and were running a new course that I had set up.

"Good job, guys!" I shouted as the recruits sprinted around the cones. "Remember to let your wolf give you power, and you'll be able to do more than you thought possible! Just rely on your wolf!"

As I watched the recruits run around the course I had made, I couldn't help but smile. But at the same time, I felt a presence behind me; I turned to look over my shoulder and saw Enzo standing there. My smile faded a bit as I half expected him to return to his previous methods of training, but much to my surprise he said nothing. In fact, he just stood a few feet away, watching me calmly with his hands in his pockets.

I smiled back at him and turned back to look at the recruits.

"Good job, everyone!" I said as they finished the course and jogged back over to me. "I think you can all call it a day now. See you all again tomorrow morning."

The recruits walked off of the athletic field, grinning and laughing. I watched as some of the boys shot forward, racing each other with their newfound speed back to the quad, and I couldn't help but laugh.



Just then, Enzo finally came up to me and put his arm around my shoulder. I looked up at him and saw that he seemed to have softened, and no longer looked angry.

“Wanna go for a run?” he asked gently.

I felt myself blush and looked down at my clothes. I wasn’t wearing athletic gear, and was even wearing my lace-up boots due to the snow earlier that morning. Needless to say, I wasn’t exactly dressed for running.

“Um... I don’t think I’m really dressed to go running,” I said.

Enzo just chuckled and shook his head, then ruffled my hair. “I was talking about running in our wolf forms, silly.”