

Kidnapped and Rejected The Return of Alpha's Luna (Janet and Daran) by Moon Claw

Chapter 51

Chapter 51

A woman had stood up from the stand.

And to everyone's surprise, this objector was Angelina, Harper's largest victim.

Daran looked toward Angelina with a frown, "Are you raising objections now Angelina?"

"Sorry to interrupt you, Alpha Daran. But yes, I do object to those penalties," Angelina answered with a nod.

"But why?" one of the elders cried in disbelief, "Harper caused all of your sufferings. An eye for an eye. Don't you want to see her pay for what she did?"

"Of course, I do. But I don't want her to get expelled. No."

Angelina walked around the long table and stand in front of Daran and the elders. She bowed to them humbly before looking up and asked:

"Pardon me, Alpha Daran and my lords. But have you ever lived in the rogue's world before?"

"I have fought them, killed them, but I have never lived them." Daran answered coldly, "Do tell me how your question is related to the issue we are dealing with now."

"I don't want Harper Diaz to get expelled because it would be a reward for her, not a punishment."

Angelina took a deep breath and turned to look at Harper, her eyes gleaming with hatred.

"Thanks to her, I have been to the rogue's world. I know those rogues. They are all vicious, ruthless, and cold, just like her. I have no doubt that Harper would fit right in when she came to the rogue's society."

There was a moment of discussion among the elders. And then one of the elders asked Angelina, "Then what do you suggest? Your opinion matters greatly because you are Harper's largest victim."

Angelina raised her head, "Instead of setting her free by expelling her, I think we should keep her here and let her take up heavy labors in our pack. She will no longer be a lady, but a lowly slave. She will redeem her sin through hard works."

"But don't you think it is too mild a penalty? How can we make that sure gets enough punishment for her sins?" the elder frowned with disagreement.

Angelina slightly curved her lips, "That is why I wish you could appoint Harper to me as my maid. I will keep an eye on her personally and make sure she repents her crime."

There was an astonished gasp from the crowd.

This was truly a bold suggestion!

Letting a former lady serve as a maid? This had never happened before in Riverside Pack!

"B–But you can't do this!" John stuttered nervously, "Harper didn't know how to serve as a maid. She had never cleaned or wiped anything in her entire life!"

Angelina countered fiercely, "She can learn, can't she? Do you think I am born to be a maid myself?"

John wanted to keep arguing. Yet Owen tugged at his shirt gesturing him to shut up.

Daran pondered on this briefly before gazing at Janet and asked, "What do you think, Gamma Janet? Do you think this is a good idea?"

Janet stood up from her seat.

"I think this penalty serves Harper justly. I will help Angelina to keep an eye on Harper." Janet smiled. "And I insist on that tattoo on her forehead as well. It will serve as a constant reminder to Harper and everyone else of what crime she had committed."

Hearing Janet's words, Harper suddenly started to struggle and scream furiously. But her mouth was clogged. So she couldn't make any sounds beside muffled groans.

Janet glanced at Harper and added with a smile, "In fact, why don't we give that tattoo to her right here today? Many people had come a long way to witness this. We don't want them to come back home disappointed."

Exited cheering and shouts could be heard from the crowd.

People were all clapping to Janet's suggestion.

After receiving a nod from Daran, guards rushed to get the equipment and they returned with a tattoo needle.

Harper was forced to kneel on the ground, facing the entire public.

Her eyes were wide with dread and horror as the guards with the tattoo needle approached her. She gritted the clog in her mouth so hard that it was starting to make a squeaky sound.

“Hold on a second.”

Angelina took a step forward and stuck her hand out to the guard, “Actually, can I do it?”

The guard looked towards the stand hesitantly. Seeing no one had objected, he gave Angelina the tattoo needle and stepped down.

“Well...Miss Harper, have you seen this day coming?”

With the tattoo needle in her one hand, Angelina grabbed Harper’s chin with another hand and forced her to look up.

“I bet

you have never imagined that I would come back one day.” Angelina giggled, raising the needle. “But here I am, just for you. And we are going to have so much fun together...forever.”

The needle touched Harper’s skin, making a sizzling sound.

A muffled cry escaped Harper’s gritted teeth as her whole body twitched in pain involuntarily.

Two guards held Harper still as Angelina continued with her work.

“It hurts, doesn’t it!”

Angelina snapped while looking down at Harper’s tear–stained face.

“Well, you should know this when you have my forehead tattooed! Remember how you asked your maids to splash salty water over my face to increase my pain?! You deserve all these, Harper!”

Hellen let out a small cry and fainted into Paul’s arm.

John seemed as though he was about to shit his pants in horror.

Still sitting on the stand, Janet looked closely at this with a cold smile on her lips.

She felt a sweet sense of victory at heart.

At this moment, everything Harper had ever done to her came rushing back to her. All those damages that Harper had once caused her, physical ones and emotional ones, were all still fresh in her mind.

This was Janet's revenge as well.

Letting out a small breath, Janet glanced around at the other Diaz.

Harper was only the first one.

If the others couldn't learn their lesson today, she would make sure for them to suffer, just like Harper.

Every. Single. One. Of. Them.

After a long 10 minutes, Angelina completed with the tattoo. She let go of Harper, who collapsed onto the ground almost immediately.

There was a striking tattoo on her forehead now, which read:

SLAVE.

Starting today, Harper was no longer a mighty lady.

She would spend the rest of her life working as a slave in redemption of her crimes. Angelina turned toward the stand and bowed, "My work here is completed. I ask for your permission now to take Harper back to my home."

"Allowed."

Daran stood up from his seat and said to the whole crowd deeply:

"Let this incident be a lesson to everyone here today. Riverside Pack does not endure frauds, schemers, and criminals. Rogues are threatening our safety and we can't waste time on fighting our own brothers and sisters. Anyone dares to challenge this will receive the same amount of punishment."

The crowd responded him with a round of deafening applause.

After the trial was dismissed, Janet rose from her seat and walked down the stand, heading towards her car

She wanted to head back to the training field.

Now that Harper was taken care of, she could finally focus on the training.

She did agree with Daran on what he just said earlier—They couldn't afford to waste a single second on infighting anymore.

The rogues were coming.

And they needed to be prepared.

Janet was passing through the crowd, thinking about her training plans, when a voice came from her back:

“Janet—Wait!”

It was Paul, followed by Hellen, John, and Owen.

Janet stopped and frowned at these clowns.

“What do you want?” Janet asked impatiently, “I don't have the time now.

“Not so fast, my little sis—or should I say, Blood Moon Pack's little princess?”

Owen said with a snort.

“Now that you have taken down Harper, shall we talk about what you owe us?”

Janet looked at them coldly, “What are you talking about?”

Hellen strode forward.

Her eyes were still swollen from tears.

She pointed a finger at Janet and cried loudly:

“You were never my real kid, you fraud! We spent money on you, we fed you, we raised you for 20 years! How are you going to pay us back?!”

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Chapter 52

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The crowd hadn't fully dispersed yet.

Hearing Hellen's accusation, many people halted in their tracks and looked at their direction.

Janet was in no mood arguing with them. She darted them a cold glare before turning around and walking away hastily.

"Stop her! That fraud is getting away!" Hellen shrieked.

John jumped at Janet reaching out an arm to grab her shoulder. Janet shook him off with one move and shoved him away.

John staggered backwards and tripped himself.

Falling to the ground, he covered his chest and cried hysterically, "The Gamma is bullying the civilians! Help! Somebody helps us!"

Janet clenched her fists in anger.

As much as she wanted to avoid these clowns, they didn't allow her a single moment of peace.

"I didn't bully you. You tripped yourself. Everyone here could be my witness."

Janet said icily.

"And fine, let's talk if you insist. Should I remind you of how you tortured me over the years? Living under your roof, I had never had a full meal. I spent my entire childhood doing hard labors. Kids like Owen beat me whenever they wanted to. There were broken ribs and bruises on my body during my entire upbringing. I haven't asked you for the medical bills yet. How dare you come back now and ask me

for money?!"

Hellen took out a large handkerchief and sobbed into it.

Paul held her waist, letting her lean on his shoulder, and snapped at Janet, "You are not our child. How can you expect us to treat you like one of our own? You are a freeloader, Janet, hovering over our house and snatching food from my children! We won't leave until you pay us back what you owe!"

Janet felt a furious feeling at heart.

The Diaz were even more barefaced than she had expected.

She couldn't get violent with them with everyone watching. She couldn't walk away either—John and Owen had blocked her way.

Just then, a deep voice came from behind their backs, "What is going on?"

It was Daran.

He walked through the parting crowds and arrived at the scene.

His cold eyes surveyed the group and focused on Paul in the end, "I just said no more dramas and riots. Have you forgotten already?"

Daran's Alpha aura was very intimidating. The Diaz quivered in fear involuntarily. "A—Alpha Daran."

Owen plucked up the courage and stepped forward, facing Daran with a flattering smile.

"You probably don't remember me anymore because I have spent the last few years serving in your patrol team at the border. It is my great honor to—"

"Cut to the chase." Daran said icily, "I don't care who you are.

Owen gulped nervously and pointed a finger at Janet, "As you have known, Janet is not my parents' kid. She has been freeloading our family for years, keeping her identity a secret from us. Now we simply ask her to give the money back to us. It sounds fair, right? But Janet refused us and shoved my little brother violently! Alpha, please, you must do us justice!"

Janet looked at Daran briefly.

She didn't expect him to take her side.

She wouldn't be surprised if he stood with the Diaz and demanded her to pay back the money.

"So you said that Janet shoved you?" Daran asked John.

John nodded eagerly.

“I doubt it.” Daran said with a snort, “Janet is a Gamma. If she really did push you on purpose, you would end up with two broken ribs and a concussion. It seems more likely to me that you tripped yourself.”

The crowd burst into a gale of laughter. And John’s face turned red.

Janet raised an eyebrow in surprised.

Daran was taking her side this time?

How odd.

“And about the money you talked about-”

Daran turned to Hellen and Paul and asked, “Give me a figure. How much does she owe you?”

The couple exchanged a greedy look with each other.

“She did spend a lot of our money.” Paul said, “So she owes us at least 100 million-”

“500 million!” Hellen cried, talking over her husband, “I haven’t even counted in the jewelries we bought her over the years!”

Janet widened her eyes in rage.

500 million?!

Were they crazy?

The entire Diaz family didn’t even have a worth of 100 million. How could they have spent 500 million on her?

They were ripping her off, blatantly!

“You have never bought me a single piece of jewelry!” Janet snarled, “And I wore the boys’ hand-me-downs growing up! I didn’t even have any girl’s clothes when I was little!”

“Yeah!” John agreed with his mother loudly, “500 million! We are not asking for much!”

Daran raised a hand and silenced their quarrel.

“Fine. 500 million it is.” He said.

Janet jerked around glaring at him in disbelief, "What are you talking about? I am not paying them a penny!"

Daran gave her a comforting look and said to the Diaz, "This 500 million will be coming from my account."

Everyone was taken aback by his words.

"Daran, don't be ridiculous." Janet said hastily, "I can't let you pay for this."

Daran looked at her softly, "You were my Luna. This is the least I can do for you now."

Janet lapsed into silence as a mixed feeling surged up in her.

Daran turned to the Diaz again and said, "But let's do the math first. You borrowed 200 million from me when Harper and Janet were abducted by the rogues. Janet was my Luna and I am happy to pay for her share. Yet the rogues never received her 100 million. You pocketed that money yourself, didn't you?"

Hellen's mouth dropped open and stammered, "I—I didn't—"

Yet Daran continued anyway, "Harper had nothing to do with me. So now it is time for you to pay me back her share of 100 million. That is 200 million in total. And I was going through your company's accounts the other day and noticed some missed

tax bills...In fact, your company hadn't paid any tax in almost 10 years."

He lifted the corner of his lips into a sarcastic smile and looked around the Diaz's panicked faces.

"Do the math, Mr. and Mrs. Diaz. Subtract what you owe me and your missed tax bill from that 500 million and I am happy to pay for the rest. But I am afraid that you will end up owing me instead."

He turned away from the Diaz and nodded at Janet, "Shall we go now, Gamma Janet?"

Janet smiled and followed him walking away.

Daran walked her all the way to her car and got the door for her himself.

Yet Janet didn't get into the car right away.

She looked at Daran and said to him sincerely, "Thank you, really, for today."

If it weren't for him, she really didn't know how to get rid of the Diaz.

“It was nothing. I am happy to do this for you,” Daran smiled.

“And you really paid my ransom?” Janet couldn’t help but ask.

She had been blaming Daran for this ever since she was abducted.

She thought Daran was coldhearted enough to watch her die in the rogue’s hands and do nothing about it.

But as it turned out, she might be wrong about this.

It was the Diaz who pocketed the money.

“I did.” Daran said with a nod, “You are my mate, my Luna, my wife, I just regret. not getting there sooner and rescuing you from the rogues. And I also

regret...rejecting you when you needed me the most.

Janet didn’t know what to say to this.

A strong wave of emotions had overwhelmed her.

“I know it is probably too late but–” Daran looked down at her and said in a serious voice, “–Can you give us a second chance, Janet?”

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Chapter 53

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A second chance?

Janet didn't know how to respond to this. Nor did she see this coming.

"Why do you want to get back with me anyway? And what about Harper?" Janet asked.

Daran frowned, "What about her? I am talking about us.

||

"Weren't you in love with her?" Janet questioned, "You only married me because I am your mate. Your heart was with Harper. I thought you were going to marry her right after I was gone...But why didn't you do it?"

The furrow between Daran's brows grew deeper.

"Nonsense. Who told you that I have feelings for Harper?" he asked.

11

'...Everyone," Janet said.

Hellen and Paul had never stopped telling Janet how much she didn't deserve Daran ever since they were married.

And Harper just loved to show off to her how intimate she and Daran were.

"If you weren't his mate. He would definitely marry me instead. You snatched my loved one, Janet!"

These were Harper's exact words.

And Daran had been nothing but cold and aloof with her, which further confirmed Janet's theory—that Daran only married her because they were mates.

"Well, they are lying! Or maybe they didn't know me at all!" Daran growled frustratedly, "I never loved Harper. I only thought of her as my sister—"

“But she said that she was going to be your Luna!”

“I never agreed to that!” Daran snapped, “The only woman I have ever loved is you, Janet. And I won’t make any other women my Luna, except you. I am sorry for treating you coldly once before... But I will make it up for you.”

Janet felt like the fate had played a big joke with her.

When she was still married to Daran, all she ever wanted in life was for him to love her back. She was willing to give up anything in life in exchange of Daran’s heart.

It was too late now. however

Taking in a deep breath, Janet said with an aloof tone, “I don’t need you to make it up

for me because I don’t care anymore. And frankly, I don’t want to be

your Luna either. I am a Gamma now. My life has a purpose, and it is a much more thrilling life compared to the life I had when I was your Luna. I won’t give that up for you.”

“And you don’t have to!” Daran said eagerly, “You can still be Blood Moon Pack’s Gamma. This can work!”

“This won’t work! And the most important thing is—I don’t love you anymore!”

Janet cried that out and held her breath waiting for Daran’s reaction.

Daran’s face turned dark instantly.

He narrowed his eyes at Janet as anger flickered across his face.

After a little pause, he asked deeply, “Who do you love then?”

“...What are you talking about?”

“Who is your loved one now, Janet!” Daran demanded strongly, “Your soldier? The boy named Kass? Or Silver Claw Pack’s Alpha Jared?”

His aggressive attitude pissed Janet off and she started to get mad.

“NO ONE!”

She snapped wrenching the car door open.

“And even if I do love somebody, it is none of your fu cking business!”

She got into the car and wanted to slam the door shut. But Daran grabbed the door frame forcefully.

“I won’t give up, Janet. I always get what I want in life. And you...are no exception,” he said.

“Oh yeah? Then it is time for you to grow up and learn about losing. I am happy to be your lesson one!”

Janet shut the door with a huge noise and stomped on the gas furiously. The car raced away leaving Daran behind.

The Diaz returned to their house with a panic expression on their faces.

As soon as the door closed, Hellen immediately turned to her husband and demanded, “We have missed tax bills? Is that true? Or was Alpha Daran bluffing us?”

Paul looked exhausted.

He tossed his jacket on the floor and slumped down on to his seat.

“What do you know about business?” he said impatiently.

“Just tell me if it is true!”

Hellen’s high-pitched voice startled Paul. He jerked up and roared to his wife, “Stop yelling at me you stupid bitch! Yes, I NEVER paid any tax! And it is the sole reason we can acquire this much wealth in such a short time!”

His confession shocked everyone.

“Are you crazy, father?” John gasped, “Tax evasion is a serious crime! We can all end up in jail! You have to close the money gap, father. QUICK!”

“With what money then, smart ass?” Paul sneered and squinted at his son, “We had no savings left! Shall we sell this house? Or shall we sell all of your fancy sports cars?”

John’s sports car collection was his everything. He quickly shook his head in panic, “No! Not my cars!”

“God! What will others think of us! Are we down to the point of selling up?” Hellen covered her face and wailed, “All my friends will laugh at us! This family—the Diaz family is doomed!”

The living room was filled with John's panic voice and Hellen's desperate cries.

Paul clenched his fists with a vein popping on his forehead and bellowed, "SHUT UP!

Stop crying! NOW! Let me fu cking think for a moment!"

Owen looked around his desperate families and sneered, "I don't understand why you are all freaking out. This issue is quite easy to fix to me."

There was a moment of silence in the room.

Hellen looked up from her palms with teary eyes and asked shakily, "W—What do you mean, son?"

"You all heard the Alpha today. He had found out about our tax issue a long time ago. But he never said anything till today. Why?" Owen asked.

Paul rubbed his chin, pondering, "You think Alpha Daran has been cutting us a slack? Because of Harper?"

Owen nodded, "Exactly. When Harper was around, Alpha considered us families. The tax issue was basically nothing. So what we should do now is to fix our relationship with the Alpha."

Hellen twisted her fingers nervously, "But how? Alpha is hot with that freeloader Janet now. And we have lost Harper already..."

She had a moment of regret—Was it too soon to give up on Harper?

"Who said you needed Harper, mother?" Owen let out a snort, "You heard Alpha Daran's pep talk today. His top priority is on the upcoming war. The person he needed the most right now is not a Luna—but a right hand."

He straightened himself up and added with a confident smile, "Yes. I am talking about me."

Hellen and Paul exchanged a shocking look as John gasped in disbelief, "You? Didn't you just get kicked out of the patrol team? How are you going to become Alpha Daran's right hand?"

"They kicked me out because they are jealous of my capability!" Owen snapped, "I need to join Alpha Daran's army, the one that is training with the other packs and will go fight the rogues,one day! I will become a general. I will win Alpha's trust! And I will definitely bring glory back to this family!"

His firm words madé Hellen and Paul excited.

Paul stood up from the couch and said to Owen, “Here is my son! Tell me. What do you need to get into Alpha’s army?”

“The army isn’t recruiting new members now. But I bet this rule can be bent if we bribe the right person.”

Owen said with a smile.

“I heard that Gamma Baron is a very reasonable man. I am sure he will appreciate my talent if I go to him with money. It will be a small amount to pay compared to

our tax bill.”

Paul gritted his teeth. After pondering for a while, he nodded firmly, “Let’s do it son. I will prepare the money and you can pay Gamma Baron a visit tonight!”

“What money? I thought we are broke,” John grumbled.

Hellen wiped away her tears and beamed, “We still have Harper’s jewelries. And the dowry she has been saving up. Now that she has become a lowly slave, she won’t be using that money anymore. We can put it into a good use.”

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Janet couldn’t stop thinking what Daran said about giving them a second chance.

Truth to be told, she found his proposal ridiculous.

Who made Daran think that there was a chance for them to start over?

Yes, Daran paid her ransom.

But he also rejected her cold–heartedly when she was in danger.

And she hadn't even mentioned the cold shoulder that he had been giving her throughout their entire marriage.

She was not some sort of cargo that he could come back to anytime he wanted.

His cocky attitude irritated her. Daran is being Daran again.

He wasn't even her Alpha anymore. Yet he still hadn't learnt to drop that condescending attitude.

...What a jerk.

The next morning, Janet woke up early and headed towards the training field. With Harper out of her way, she was in a particularly good mood today.

Yet this good mood didn't last as long as she had expected.

There was a large group of people gathered outside of the Riverside Pack's training field when Janet arrived.

They seemed to be in the middle of a celebration.

"What is the fuzz here?"

Janet walked over and asked Balvina, who was standing a few feet away from that gathering crowd with a sarcastic look on her face.

"They are celebrating the return of Baron."

Balvina curled her lips with disgust.

"What a barefaced jerk. If I were him, I would never return to the public's sight after that kind of humiliation."

"Well, he has got a more checky face than the both of us combined," Janet said.

After that incident with the crazy bears, Baron had been hiding in his house, letting Maxie take care all of the trainings. He didn't even show up at the party a few days

ago.

But Janet knew that Baron would come back sooner or later. He was still Riverside's Gamma, nevertheless.

She looked over and spotted Baron at the center of the crowd.

He had a triumph smile on his face as though he just returned from a battlefield of victory.

“OK, soldiers, I know you all miss me very much.”

Baron spread his arms wide open and announced loudly, “And now that I have come back, I have no doubt that we will crush other packs at the competition next month. Who is with me!”

His speech won a deafening round of cheering.

“And I want to introduce you to a good friend of mine-

Baron pulled a man over and let him face the entire crowd.

11

Owen Diaz! My new right hand! And he will be responsible for your trainings from now on!”

It was indeed Owen, standing by Baron’s side, waving his hands at people and grinning like a fool.

“Christ!” Balvina whispered into Janet’s ear, “Isn’t that the Diaz’s second son? What is he doing here? And how did he hook up with Baron?”

“No idea.”

Janet’s eyes searched across the crowd sullenly. Then she asked Balvina lowly, “And if Owen becomes the new trainer, what happened to Maxie?”

She didn’t see Maxie among the crowd.

Balvina frowned and she seemed worried as well.

On the other side, Baron had done making his speech. He turned and noticed Janet and Balvina staring at him in the distance.

An evil smile spread on his lips as he paced over.

“What are you looking at, Gamma Janet? Trying to steal our training plan?” Baron said in a cold, drawling voice, “Oh, and Owen, I trust you know Gamma Janet personally?”

“Indeed, I do. She is my family’s freeloader.”

Owen looked down at Janet with his arms crossed in front of his muscular chest. He seemed like Baron's large and thuggish crony.

Although he was much taller and larger than Janet was, Janet was not intimidated by him.

Taking a step further, Janet met his eyes and sneered, "How is your family's tax issue coming along?"

Owen's body tensed immediately.

That tax issue was really a pain in the ass.

Alpha Daran's Minister of Treasure came to their house this morning and delivered them an official notice.

As it turned out, the Diaz family owed 800 million of tax!

Even after subtracting that 500 million Daran agreed to pay, it was still a giant figure!

Hellen and Paul had a massive meltdown when they received the notice. Hellen knelt on the floor and wailed as Paul broke a vase.

They didn't have that much money even if they sold everything they owe!

Owen was their only hope now.

They all counted on Owen to become brilliant in the army and persuaded Daran to forget about the tax.

Thinking about all those pressures that he was under, Owen glared at Janet and hissed, "You listen to me, you piece of shit. Stay out of my way! Or I will make you crawl on the ground like a fucking dog like you used to!"

you

Janet let out a cold laugh, "I can't believe it... You are even more stupid than Harper."

"WHAT DID YOU SAY?!"

Letting out a deafening roar, Owen reached out his giant hand trying to grab Janet by her collar.

Janet stepped sideways, seizing Owen's arm with both hands, and gave him a nice and clean shoulder throw!

Owen's body was smashed onto the ground harshly, making a huge noise.

"Well—"

Janet put a foot on Owen's shoulder, stopping him from getting up, and smiled:

"—Who is crawling on the ground like a fu cking dog now?"

There was a horrific look on Owen's face.

When did Janet become this strong?

He thought she was still that weak, little girl, who couldn't fight back and could only cry and sob pathetically.

...What changed her?!

Baron was standing by the side the whole time when this happened. He started to panic when Janet wrestled Owen to the ground.

Yet he wasn't dared to rush forward and rescue Owen—he knew what Janet was capable of.

So he decided to call for help.

"Where are my soldiers!" Baron raised his volume and cried, "Your gamma has been attacked! Get your ass over here!"

Yet his voice didn't attract many Riverside Pack's soldiers.

Blood Moon Pack's soldiers heard him first and rushed out of the training field together.

"What is going on here!"

Kass dashed over and yelled.

"What are you doing to our Gamma!"

They henimed Baron and Owen in and looked at Janet, waiting for her order.

Baron took a shaky step back. He felt a strong sense of insecurity being surrounded by Blood Moon Pack's soldiers like that.

“I warn you! Don’t do anything rush, Janet!” Baron pointed a finger at Janet and cried, “You heard Alpha Daran yesterday! He didn’t appreciate infighting!”

Janet sneered.

She was disgusted by the horrific look on Baron’s face.

“Look at yourself. You are shitting your pants. How can you go to the battlefield like that?” she asked sarcastically.

She let go of Owen’s arm and turned to leave the crowd.

Owen quickly scrambled to his feet and stared at Janet’s back resentfully. He still seemed furious. But he wasn’t dared to challenge Janet’s authority again.

Balvina hurried to catch up with Janet, “Hey where are you going? Aren’t you going to the training field today?”

“You are in charge of today’s training.” Janet said briefly, “I need to talk to Alpha Daran about his Gamma.”

She couldn’t stand Baron anymore.

And the situation had worsened now with Owen jumping on board.

All 5 packs would dispatch their troops together very soon. She couldn’t focus on fighting the rogues with scumbags like Baron and Owen in the

army.

And she was sure that Owen wouldn’t stop messing with her.

As much as she didn’t want to stumble into Riverside Pack’s business, this nonsense with Owen must stop now.

Plus, she was worried about Maxie as well.

Maxie was an excellent trainer; yet she was replaced by Owen now.

Did something happen to Maxie?

Where was she now?

With these questions at heart, Janet jumped on her car and headed towards the central packhouse, looking for Daran.

A maid told her that Daran was in his study going through paperwork.

Janet knew the way to his study perfectly well. So she thanked the maid and headed to the study directly.

The study's door was left open with a crack when she got there.

And there was no guard standing outside.

Janet wanted to knock first.

Yet the scene she saw through the door crack made her froze on the

...Daran was sitting behind the desk.

And there was a beautiful woman snuggling by his side.

Her big boobs were almost touching his arm.

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Chapter 55

Chapter 55

Janet's hand froze on the doorknob.

spot.

She heard that woman saying to Daran in a sweet voice, "Alpha, don't you ever get tired from all these works? The day is beautiful outside. Let's go for a picnic. Or go hunting in the forest."

"I have works to do."

Daran's voice was cold. But he didn't push that woman away.

"You shouldn't be here in the first place, Salvia. Why didn't my guards stop you?"

Salvia giggled and leant in even closer, "Your guards know that we are intimate. They walked away when I came in to give us some space. Come on, Daran, don't be a buzzkill. You know we have a better way of spending this afternoon...A much better way..."

Her hand traveled down Daran's chest as she spoke and tried to unbutton his shirt.

Daran grabbed her hand forcefully.

Janet couldn't watch anymore. If she didn't go in there, the two might start doing it right on the desk soon.

So she flung the door open with a quick sharp movement.

The noise startled the woman named Salvia. She jerked around looking at Janet and snapped, "Why didn't you knock! The Alpha is busy!"

Janet raised her eyebrow, "Busy with work? Or busy banging you?"

Salvia seemed furious, "Who the hell are you!"

"Janet."

Daran rose from his chair hastily looking at Janet. He seemed pleased to see her here.

"Are you here to see me?" he asked.

"That depends." Janet shrugs, glancing at Salvia. "Am I interrupting?"

"No. Of course not," Daran said firmly.

Then he turned to Salvía, who was glaring at Janet hostilely, and demanded, "Leave us, Salvia."

"No! I am not leaving you with her!" Salvia cried.

She darted a look at Janet and gritted, "I know who you are. You are Daran's ex.

Didn't he reject you already? What are you still doing here? Begging him to take you back?"

"Enough Salvia!" Daran snapped.

Yet Salvia was still yammering, "You were rejected by him once already. You are basically damaged good! If you still have any sense of self-respect, you should stay away from him as far as possible!"

Janet surveyed Salvia from head to toe.

Frankly speaking, this woman was very beautiful, even more so than Harper. She also had a very nice body, the kind that could easily attract men's attention on the street.

"If you

know my name, you should also know that I am Blood Moon Pack's Gamma and princess."

Janet let out a cold sneer looking at her.

"You should bow to me and keep your voice low while talking to me. It is the most basic upper-society courtesy. Have you learnt nothing back in school?"

Salvia's face went red in rage.

"I am a noble myself!" she cried, "I don't need to bow to you!"

"That is enough! You are crossing the line here, Salvia." Daran snarled, raising his voice. "Guards!"

With a series of hurried footsteps, two guards rushed into the room.

Daran said to them coldly, "Escort Miss Salvia out. And if you ever let people into my study without my permission, all of you will be fired."

Guards quivered under his sharp gaze and dragged Salvia out immediately.

Janet waited for them to close the door before asking Daran, "Do I have your permission to stay, Alpha Daran?"

"Of course!"

Daran walked around the table to her and said, "Look, about Sylvia-

"I am not here to talk about your personal life, Alpha Daran." Janet cut him off sharply, "It is about Baron."

A furrow appeared between Daran's brows.

"What did he do now?" he asked.

Janet told him everything that happened this morning outside of the training field and then added, "I can't go to war with these people, and certainly not with Owen. If you refused to replace Baron and Owen, I am afraid that the Blood Moon Pack will have to back down from this alliance."

Daran breathed out a heavy sigh, "I understand your frustration, Janet. But it isn't that easy. Baron's family is very influential."

"Even more influential than the Alpha?" Janet asked sarcastically.

Daran pretended that he didn't notice Janet's sarcastic tone and said, "Baron's father—the former Gamma—was a very respected warrior. He died in the battlefield fighting rogues, heroically. He was Riverside Pack's soldier's icon. If I take his son

Baron down without a legitimate reason, the public will get mad."

This piece of information was new to Janet.

"So you are just going to sit around and let Baron corrupt your army?" Janet asked with a frown, "Because let me tell you, Baron is nothing like his father. He is a weak puss. And he is fully capable of turning you over to the rogues in exchange of his own life. I assure you that."

"I am fully aware of that. Let me show you something."

Daran pulled a piece of paper out of the deck of files on his desk and handed it to Janet, "We have 50% of our annual budget going into the army. Yet the account doesn't check out. My Minister of Finance and I suspect Baron of pocketing that money himself."

Janet scanned through the paper.

Daran was right.

More than 5 billion were allocated to the army this year. Yet 80% of that money got vanished in the thin air.

"If you can prove this, you have a legitimate reason to remove Baron," Janet said.

"Exactly."

Daran nodded.

"I am just having trouble getting my hands on Baron's account book. I am actually thinking about issuing a warrant to search his house. We are moving closer to the day of the dispatch. The sooner we take care of Baron, the better it is."

Janet pondered on that for a moment.

“Hold that thought on the warrant. I don’t think he keeps that account book in his house. It is too risky.”

“Then do you have a better idea?”

Janet looked at him with a smile, “Not an idea. A person, Maxie. She might happen to know everything about Baron’s shady deals but doesn’t dare to say anything because of Baron’s power. Let me talk to her today.”

She gave the paper back to Daran and walked towards the door.

Yet Daran stopped her again, “Don’t you want to know who Sylvia is?”

Janet stopped by the door.

She looked over her shoulder and sneered, “Let me guess...She is Baron’s sister, isn’t she?”

She and Baron had the exact same eyes, and a huge ego.

The similarity was striking.

“That is right,” Daran said with a nod. “Baron had sensed my dissatisfaction towards him and sent his sister over to put in some good words for him. When we get rid of Baron, I can finally get some peace in my study as well.”

“No need to explain. Again, not interested in your personal life,” Janet shrugged. She paused.

And then couldn’t help but added to that acidly, “But you do strike people as the easily manipulated type. Or why does everyone keep sending their female family member to you side?”

First Harper...then Sylvia.

Did they ever stop?

There was a small smile on Daran’s lips.

He didn’t seem mad.

Amusement gleamed in his eyes as he asked in a hoarse voice:

“So when does Alpha Casper planning on sending his female family member to me? I promise I won’t push her away this time like what I did to Sylvia and Harper.”

—

Janet felt her face went red.

“Don’t flatter yourself!” she snarled, holding the door frame. “Now stop pestering me. I have an account book to find. And a witness to talk to!”

Daran called behind her back, “But aren’t you at least a little bit of jealous when you walked in earlier?”

“Not even a bit!”

Janet snapped and shut the door close with a loud bang.

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Chapter 56

Chapter 56

The witness Janet wanted to talk to was Maxie.

Although Baron hadn’t been very nice to Maxie, he trusted her very much. He brought her to the first between–packs competition, and he even let her fill in as the substitute trainer while he was absent.

Maxie must know something about his dirty deals.

The only problem was whether or not she would be willing to tell Janet everything that she knew.

It seemed that Maxie was terrified of Baron. She didn’t even dare to say a word of defiance when Baron blamed her for the mad bear incident.

Baron must have found a way to control her somehow.

Janet needed to find out by what means Baron was controlling Maxie.

And she needed to win over Maxie's trust.

Maxie was living in the central packhouse. Since she didn't show up in the training field today, Janet thought she might have the luck of finding Maxie in her room.

Janet arrived outside of Maxie's room and gently knocked on the door.

Nobody answered.

Janet didn't give up. She knocked again.

This time she heard a series of light footsteps approaching the door, followed by a guardedly tensed voice asking, "Who is it?"

"It is me, Janet, from the Blood Moon Pack." Janet leant closer to the door and asked, "Can we talk for a minute?"

"I can't think of anything we can talk about," said Maxie warily.

It didn't kick off with a great start.

But Janet didn't leave.

Instead, she held the doorknob and insisted, "Give me a chance to talk to you Maxie. This is important. You don't need to come out. We can talk through the door if you like."

There was another long silence.

And then, the door was opened up a crack, revealing a small part of Maxie's face.

"What do you need?" Maxie asked lowly.

"You were not at the training field today. I heard that Baron replaced you with Owen. But you were doing great training your soldiers. So what happened?"

"Gamma Baron felt that Owen is a better fit than me. And I don't mind that, really. I was temporarily filling in anyway—"

"Nonsense!" Janet gasped, raising her voice. "Both you and I knew that is bullshit. Have you met Owen? The guy knew nothing but waiving his fists in the air like a giant gorilla. And you are counting on a guy like him to train your soldiers?"

Maxie's face went pale.

After a pause, she muttered, “This is Riverside Pack’s business. And you are Blood Moon Pack’s Gamma. This doesn’t concern you.”

She wanted to close the door, but Janet took a step further and put her foot between the door panel and the wall.

And Janet insisted, “But this is an alliance, Maxie. And we are going to the battlefield together one day. I can’t stand aside and do nothing when a real capable person like you gets bullied and dismissed, while scumbags like Baron and Owen take the control!”

Maxie bit her lips and subsided into silence.

Janet stared at her and asked abruptly, “What happened to your arm?”

Maxie was wearing long sleeves, But her sleeves rolled up when she tried to shut the door, revealing her upper arm skin.

There were a few striking bruises on her skin. All seemed relatively new.

Maxie panicked and quickly pulled off her sleeve to cover her skin. But it was too late.

“Don’t bother. I saw it already.” Janet said solemnly, “I get it. It isn’t easy for you to stand up against Baron’s tyrant. It took me a long time to learn about how to fight for my own right as well. But you can do it, just like me. This is your chance now, Maxie!”

Maxie inhaled sharply. Her lips started to tremble.

She still had the door half–open. But she stopped trying to close it.

“What do you want then?”

Maxie asked eventually.

“Are you trying to get me back to the training field? We both know that Gamma Baron won’t allow that.”

11

“And that is why we can’t let Baron take the wheel.”

Janet looked into Maxie’s eyes and said,

“We need to take down Baron.”

A look of shock flickered across Maxie’s eyes.

“You are crazy!” Maxie gasped in disbelief, “Do you know who Baron is! He is-”

“A respected warrior’s son, right? And so what? His father won all those glories, not him. We can’t let him keep corrupting your army. Even your Alpha is with me on this. We have your back!”

Maxie was still shaking her head, “Baron is too respected among the soldiers. You can’t kick him out of power. You will cause a riot.”

“And that is why we need to show those soldiers that Baron doesn’t deserve their respect.”

Janet took in a deep breath and got to the gist.

“Alpha Daran told me that there was an account book, documenting all details of Baron’s secret deals. If you happen to know where that account book is—”

“NO!” Maxie snarled abruptly.

There was a mixed look of fear and anger on Maxie’s face as she glared at Janet and cried, “Forget it! I am not giving you that account book!”

“Calm down, Maxie. Let’s work it out-

“No, I am done talking to you. Goodbye!”

Maxie slammed the door close with a huge bang and shut Janet outside.

Janet took a quick step back to avoid getting hit by the door.

Then she frowned.

So there was indeed an account book.

And Maxie knew where it was.

Which were all great news.

And Maxie didn’t seem to hate the idea of taking down Baron. She must hate Baron too.

But why did she react so strongly when Janet asked her about the account book?

Did Baron threaten her with something?

Janet knew that she wouldn't be able to get Maxie's trust unless she found out what Baron threatened Maxie with.

Janet turned to leave Maxie's room while still pondering on these questions.

When she reached the end of this hallway, she heard a series of conversation coming from around the corner.

Two maids were talking in a cautiously low voice.

"...Miss Maxie was still in her room?" one maid asked.

"Yes. She hadn't eaten anything since yesterday. Poor thing. I was thinking maybe I should bring her something to eat."

"She won't eat. She won't even open the door. She is always like this after—you know."

"Shush!" the other maid snapped, "Are you crazy? We are not supposed to talk about it! Do you want to be expelled? Or do you want to be dead?"

Janet narrowed her eyes standing in the shadow.

It seemed that these two maids knew what happened to Maxie. But they were too scared to say a word about it.

"I just feel terrible for Miss Maxie! She didn't deserve to be treated like this." the maid cried with an aggrieved voice.

"I know. But what can we do about it? We are only maids. There was nothing we can do about it."

The two sighed and were ready to walk away.

Just before they left, Janet stepped out of the shadow and cried out, "Wait!"

Two maids jerked around in panic.

"Gamma Janet!" one gasped, "When did you—"

"I have heard everything."

Janet walked toward them and surveyed their pale and frightened faces, "So tell me what happened to Maxie. And why did she lock herself inside of her room."

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Chapter 57

Chapter 57

These two maids look horrified.

“Gamma Janet, what are you talking about? How would we know what happened to Miss Maxie?” one maid said stiffly.

“I heard what you said earlier. And please don’t be afraid. I am not going to tell you off. On the contrary, I am here to help so you can totally trust me.”

Janet said that to ease off their guards.

But the maids still seemed very tensed.

“Please, Gamma Janet, don’t drag us into this.” one of them begged, “It was wrong of us to gossip about our masters. We promise not to do that ever again. Please let us go this time.”

Janet sighed helplessly, “I already told you—I won’t tell anyone what you said. This is between you and me.”

One maid bit her lip reluctantly. Yet after a long moment of silence, she still shook her head and muttered:

“I know that you meant well but...We simply can’t take the risk. All maids are held by strict disciplines here. One wrong move and we will totally get skinned alive for it. So please, Gamma Janet, can you just pretend that you didn’t hear anything

earlier?”

Janet let out a frustrated sigh.

She knew that she wouldn’t be about to fish anything out of these maid’s mouth today.

And honestly, she didn’t blame them.

Riverside Pack kept a tight rein on its maid and servants, making them live in constant fears of getting punished.

Janet knew that through her own experience as a maid here.

It was not fair to ask these two maids to take the risk.

“OK. So how about this.”

Janet crossed her arms and suggested, “Let’s take a different approach here. No need to say anything. If you feel like that Maxie is being mistreated, wink your left eye.”

They exchanged a look with each other.

And then one maid winked her left eye hesitantly.

“Great,” Janet pursued. “And now, wink your right eye if she is bullied by someone in power.”

The maid winked again.

“Very well.” Janet let out a big sigh, “I understand that you can’t give me any details. But can you point me to somebody who can? You can’t be the only two people who knew about what happened.”

“I–If you can find a maid who trust you...I think you will be able to find out about the truth.” The maid suggested tentatively, “It is not such a big secret among the servants...”

Janet thanked them with a nod.

They scrambled onto their feet and quickly escaped the scene.

Janet watched them disappear into the distance and pondered upon what they just told her.

And then, she thought of a great person whom she could talk to.

Angelina.

Angelina was once a maid in Riverside Pack as well, so she must know things like most maids did.

And most importantly, she trusted Janet very much for helping her revenge against Harper.

Making up her mind, Janet went to find Angelina immediately, who had currently taken up a job as a receptionist at the pack clinic.

When Janet arrived at the clinic, she was informed by another nurse that Angelina was out to check on her patients at the moment.

“Should I call Angelina and ask her to come back now?” the nurse suggested eagerly. “No, it is fine. I will wait for her outside. Thank you,” Janet smiled.

She was glad to see that Angelina was living a peaceful life like a normal person now. Even without her hands, she still found a way to prove herself useful.

Janet paced back to the waiting area and took a seat there.

She pulled her phone out to text Daran about her process today.

Just then, she heard a quarrels and arguments down the hallway.

“Who the hell are you! How dare you ask me to scrub the toilet! I am telling you—BACK OFF NOW!”

This high-pitchy voice sounded very familiar.

Janet stood up from her seat and walked toward the direction of that sound. She saw a group of nurses gathered up outside of the restroom.

And among them Janet spotted a familiar face-

Harper.

Janet almost didn't recognize Harper at all.

The Harper she used to know was always dressed in luxury clothes. Her makeup was always flawless, and her hair was shining and silky.

Now, however, Harper seemed as though she must have aged at least 10 years within 10 days.

Her hair was messy and greasy like it hadn't been washed for a long time. And her skin was no longer smooth due to the lack of attention. She was dressed in a ragged, old clothes with many patches and dirty stains on it.

Harper was yelling at other nurses in a crazy voice now:

“My name is Harper Diaz! Lady Harper! Learn to have some respect to me you bitch-”

A nurse raised a hand and slapped Harper harshly across her face.

“Stop calling everyone bitch!” the nurse snapped, “You are not a lady anymore. We all heard your judgement at the Civic Square. Alpha Daran said loud and clear that you are a slave now. And you should spend the rest of your life doing hard labors to redeem your sin!”

“Exactly!” agreed by another nurse loudly, “And we are not picking up on you. All nurses clean the restroom. It just happened to be your turn. How can you reject your duty?”

“This is not my duty!” Harper shrieked, “My duty is to become the Luna! I am Alpha Daran’s Luna! He loves me. And he will definitely get me out of here one day. Just wait and see you filthy rats!”

She burst out some hysterical laughter and started humming a tuneless song.

It seemed as though she had lost her mind.

Janet heard a few people whispered behind her back, “Look at that woman. She is a complete nutcase now. And she is still dreaming about becoming Luna...”

“What a joke. Doesn’t she know what she looks like now?”

A nurse strode forward and dumped a mop and a bucket of water in front of Harper.

“That is enough.”

She snapped.

“Stop acting crazy. We all know you are faking it to get out of works. Now get your ass moving and go clean the toilet!”

“Hell no!” Harper clenched her fists and roared back, “And I am warning you—if

you

dare to lay a single finger on me, I will-

“1

“And what will you do exactly?” a stern voice came behind Janet’s back, talking over Harper.

It was Angelina.

She walked through the crowd in long strides and soon arrived at Harper's side. There was a horrified look on Harper's face as though she was terrified of Angelina. "S-Stop right there! Don't come any closer!"

Harper cried while blundering back, trying to get away from Angelina.

"Are you trying to chop off my hand now? I will shove your head into the toilet I

swear-

11

"Nobody is trying to chop off your hands. I just want you to get your works done and yet you can't even manage that," Angelina sneered mockingly.

She raised a foot to kick on Harper's leg.

Harper fell on her knees and knocked over that bucket of water. The dirty water was spilled all over her, soaking her clothes wet with a stinky smell.

Harper uttered a terrific scream.

She struggled in that pond of dirty water, trying to get up on her feet and jump at Angelina.

But a nurse grabbed her hair from the back and stopped her.

"Do you seriously think people are still afraid of you now?"

Angelina let out a cold snort looking down at Harper.

"You are a nobody now. Even your own family has abandoned you. Without your money and power, you are no better than any of us."

Angelina straightened herself up and nodded to the nurse, "Lock her in the toilet. She will come around eventually."

The nurse dragged Harper up and shoved her into the restroom forcefully. The door was locked from the outside.

"NO! No, please!"

Harper cried and thumped the door desperately from the inside.

"It stinks in here! I am sorry. SORRY! Just let me out, please!"

“Scrub the toilet and I will let you out. Or you can spend the night in there.” Angelina said icily.

The crowd dispersed and all nurses got back to their works, leaving Harper screaming and crying in the toilet.

Angelina turned around and spotted Janet.

“Gamma Janet!” a bright smile came across her face, “*Do you* need me for something?”

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Chapter 58

Chapter 58

“Are you doing alright at the Harper front?”

Janet asked Angelina as they went into her office.

“Good. It is a lot of work to try to keep her out of troubles. But there is nothing I can’t handle.”

Angelina closed the door and walked to the fridge. “Something to drink? Water? Iced tea?”

“Water will be fine. Thank you.”

Janet sat down on the couch and said, “We can always throw Harper into jail and let her rot in a dark cell. You don’t have to be trapped by her.”

Angelina walked over with two glasses of water and set one of them in front of Janet. Taking her seat next to Janet, Angelina said with a smile, “No, I don’t feel trapped. Instead, I feel my passion for life being rekindled. Do you know how many times I have imagined Harper crawling under my feet and begging for my forgiveness? It was the only thing that guided me through the dark times. I am practically living my

dream right now.”

“But Harper doesn’t seem to feel sorry about what her did at all,” Janet said.

“Oh, we will get there. Slowly.”

Angelina shrugged.

“Many nurses and maids here were once victims of Harper. They would love to help me get Harper back on the right track. So anyway, what do you need me for today?”

Janet set the glass back on the table and leaned forward to Angelina, “I am here to ask you about a member of the Riverside Pack...Maxie.

The moment Janet said that name, she noticed a strange look flickering across Angelina’s eyes.

“Why? Have you heard about her?” Janet pursued eagerly.

“Well, yeah...But it’s a long time ago.” Angelina frowned, “Did something happen to her?”

“I think so, yeah. But neither her nor her maids are willing to tell me what happened. I suspect that it has something to do with the Gamma of Riverside Pack, Baron.”

Janet told Angelina everything that happened today.

The furrow between Angelina’s brows kept getting deeper.

“...That bastard,” Angelina gritted at the end of Janet’s story.

“As you can see, Angelina, I am here to help,” Janet said. “And not just to help Maxie, but also to help the entire Riverside Pack army. We will go to war with the rogues very soon. We can’t let a dirtbag like Baron lead the troops. We have to take him down!”

A resentful look appeared on Angelina’s face when she heard Janet said “the rogues.”

“Well, no one hates the rogues more than I do.”

Angelina gave Janet a brief smile.

“And to answer your earlier question... Yeah, I do know what happened to Maxie.” Janet sat up straighter, listening intently.

“Maxie started off as a soldier in Baron’s father’s troops. Baron’s father appreciated her talent and soon pointed her as the captain. She was a great warrior. Many girls would sneak out during lunch break and went to the training field to see her train. And she was nice to us too, unlike most ladies and nobles. So everyone loves her downstairs.”

So Maxie was Baron's father's right-hand warrior.

It explained why Baron trusted her with all his dirty secrets.

"And then...Baron's father died. Baron took over his troops...And everything changed."

Angelina tightened her fists. Her body was shaking slightly.

"One night, me and the other maids were dusting Maxie's room and bumped into her coming back from training. Her hair was messy, and she got bloody lips and bruised forehead...And most importantly, her clothes were all ripped apart."

Janet widened her eyes.

A wild anger took hold of her.

Baron...That son of a bitch! How dare him!!

"Nobody tried to expose what Baron did?" Janet snapped.

"Who dares? We are all lowly servants. We would be skinned alive if we were caught gossiping about our masters. And Maxie...you can imagine the awkward situation she was in. Baron's father was basically a mentor to her. How can she foul mouth her mentor's son? Plus, Baron is well respected in the army. No one will believe what she said."

Poor Maxie.

Nobody would believe her. So she could only suck it up herself.

For years, she cleaned Baron's messes quietly and endured his disgusting harassment. If Janet didn't find this out, how long would this keep going? "This must stop. NOW."

Janet gritted with rage burning inside of her.

"Baron...that son of a bitch deserves to die a thousand times."

Angelina nodded, "I was glad that you came to me today, Janet. If you didn't step out, I doubt anyone would ever do."

She paused and let out a sarcastic snort, "And it is funny. Harper framed an innocent person for raping, but the true victim of a sexual assault was forced to stay in silent. This world is so fucking twisted."

"And they are all going to hell. One after another."

Janet said coldly and stood up from her seat.

“Thank you today, Angelina. I think I have works to do now.”

Janet turned and walked towards the door.

But Angelina called behind her back again.

Her eyes were gleaming with a sign of fear when she looked at Janet.

“Be careful of the rogues, Janet.”

She said.

“They are more dangerous than you think...especially their king.”

“You have met with the rogue king?” Janet asked in surprise.

The head of the rogues was a very mysterious figure.

Although everybody called that person the “Rogue King,” nobody knew if that was a man or woman, let alone what that person looked like.

“Yeah...Once. At a party.”

Angelina gulped nervously as though she was going through some very terrible memories.

much.”

“I know that those people are barbaric. But it exceeds your imagination, way

She said with a quivering voice full of aghast.

“And that is why you need the best warriors in this war. Or you will lose. And don’t want to end up in the rogues’ hands after losing.”

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Angelina’s warning carried significant meaning.

As much as Janet loved to stay and ask more questions about the rogues, she still had Baron to take care of.

So after setting another time to discuss this with Angelina, Janet left the clinic and went back to the training field.

It was approaching dusk, and soldiers were leaving the training field at the end of a day.

Janet pushed her away through the crowd, trying to find Balvina.

Yet she spotted Maxie in the distance first.

Maxie wore a baseball hat that was pulled down low to cover most of her face.

She was dragging a cart of training facilities and heading toward the warehouse.

She seemed depressed and defeated.

“Maxie!” Janet cried running towards her.

Maxie froze and turned around. Her eyes widened with shock as Janet came close. Then she took a sudden step back and snapped:

“What are you still doing here? I said. We have nothing to talk about!”

“Maxie-”

“It is still about that account book, isn’t it?” Maxie hissed, keeping her voice low. “I won’t give it to you. And if you keep pestering me, I will tell Baron about this. I swear!”

“No! It is not about the account book. It is about you!”

Janet grabbed Maxie’s arm. Maxie quivered significantly. Janet must have touched the bruises on her forearm.

Looking directly into Maxie’s eyes, Janet said, “I know what happened to you, Maxie. That is not right. It has to stop. NOW!”

“What? How...Who told you!” Maxie gasped in panic.

“It doesn’t matter. But you can’t let that bastard keep bullying you. Baron’s father wouldn’t want to see this either. Plus, if you keep your mouth shut, who knows how many innocent girls will keep becoming Baron’s victims?”

That was when Maxie started to hesitate.

She stared back at Janet with a clear struggling look on her face and shook her head, “No, no way...Baron is too powerful...”

“Even more powerful than the Alpha?” Janet said urgently, “Alpha Daran is with us this time. You have our support! This is your chance! Take it, Maxie!”

“I-I can’t! You don’t understand. Baron has gotten my-”

“What are we talking about here?” a voice appeared behind Maxie’s back, interrupting her words.

Baron strolled to their side and wrapped an arm around Maxie’s shoulder casually, with Owen grinning like a fool behind his back.

Glancing at Janet’s furious face, Baron chuckled and wrapped a lock of Maxie’s hair around his finger playfully.

“Is someone bothering my Maxie?” he asked in a cold, drawling voice.

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Chapter 59

Chapter 59

“Let her go.”

Janet said freezingly, staring at the hand Baron put on Maxie’s shoulder.

Baron spat at her, “What the fu ck does this have to do with you? Go mind your own business, Janet. This is my soldier!”

“I won’t stand here and watch you bully her. Take your hand off her, right now!” Janet persisted sternly.

Baron laughed, raising his voice for everyone near them to hear, “This is new! The Gamma of Blood Moon Pack is giving me orders now! Do you want to stage a coup, Janet? Or do you think that we Riverside Pack’s soldiers are so below you that we need to start listening to you now?”

Baron was very good at shifting focus.

From a peripheral look, Janet found many Riverside Pac’s soldiers glaring at her.

“This is very typical of Janet,” Owen said with a strange laugh. “She thinks she is so above everyone. She is always right. And she is the center of the whole wide world.” The two burst into laughter together.

Yet Janet ignored them.

“You know what I am talking about, Baron.”

She stepped forward and whispered in a warning voice.

“I know what you did...This is your final chance to come clean. Don't toss it away.”

Baron snorted. He leaned forward as well and grinned, flashing his mouth full of bad teeth.

“Oh yeah? What did I do exactly?” he provoked. “And do you have any proofs?”

Janet's face turned cold.

Here was the problem-she didn't have any proofs.

And Baron saw right through that.

Seeing the frustrated look on Janet's face, Baron beamed even brighter. His hand traveled down to Maxie's butt and grabbed a handful of it.

“Maxie, Gamma Janet seemed to be defending you against me. Now, do tell her-Am I treating you unjustly?” Baron crackled.

Maxie's body was stiff like a board.

She held her head down as though she was going through some unsufferable humiliations.

It took her a long moment to whisper, “...No.”

“Louder!” Baron cried, “Let Gamma Janet hear this clearly!”

“No! I am not being mistreated!” said Maxie loudly.

When Janet looked at her, she saw glitters of tears in her eyes.

“And is Gamma Baron a good leader or what!” Owen demanded rudely. “Tell Janet-loud and clear!”

“Yes. And I am...very lucky...to follow...Gamma Baron’s lead,” answered Maxie in a shaky voice.

Wrath and indignation were all Janet could feel right now.

She clenched her fists and was ready to throw them at Baron’s face. But Maxie looked up and shoot her a warning look.

She gave Janet a small shook of her head.

“Alright, I guess this is settled then.” Baron stretched his back and hocked his arm around Owen’s neck, “You interested in an iced cold beer, man?”

“Hell yeah!” Owen laughed.

Baron whistled and beckoned Maxie as though he is calling to a dog, “Hustle up, Maxie!”

Maxie quickly wiped the corner of her eyes and turned to follow them.

When she passed by Janet’s side, she whispered in a voice that was only audible to the two of them:

“Back down from this...for you own good, Gamma Janet.”

Then she ran off.

Janet remained on the spot, staring at their back.

She didn’t

But Baron and Owen left her with no choice.

They were two vicious and vindictive pieces of trash. Fighting side by side with them was like suicide, especially when they were facing the rogues.

“Oh my god!”

With a loud cry, Balvina rushed over from the distance and gasped, “I just saw everything! What the hell just happened?”

Janet breathed out a frustrating sigh and said icily, “You just witnessed how Baron bullied Maxie. And I bet this happens everything single day in her life.”

“God, I don’t get it. Why didn’t her fight back?”

Balvina crossed her arms and sighed sadly.

“That scumbag Baron is weak like a baby chick. I can crush his throat with one hand. Maxie is so much stronger than he is.”

“Maybe Maxie is concerned about his power,” Janet said.

“But you said you would help her, right? Even a maid like Angelina was brave enough to step out and challenge Harper, what was holding back a strong warrior like Maxie?”

That was what baffled Janet too.

Maxie seemed like the strong and determined type.

And she hated Baron very much.

So what was she so concerned about?

What did Baron have on her that could guarantee her loyalty?

“Wait a second,” Janet said abruptly, “Do you remember what Harper threatened Angelina with?”

“Umm...With her family?”

Balvina paused and her eyes gleamed with excitement.

“Right! Baron probably did the same thing to Maxie! He controlled her through her families!”

Janet pulled her phone out and texted Daran immediately.

[Janet: Does Maxie have any families?]

[Daran: Yeah, I think so. Her parents and two siblings. Want me to find where they are at?]

[Janet: Please do.]

Moments later, Daran’s message came in again.

[Daran: Seems like that they moved to another city 3 years ago. No one had seen them recently. Is something wrong about this?]

“3 years ago was when Baron’s father died.”

Janet looked up from the text and said to Balvina, "And that must be when Baron started controlling Maxie with her families. I need to talk to Daran. We must find her families first!"

"I am coming with you!" Balvina cried.

Together, they left the training field hastily.

Maxie followed Baron and Owen into the warehouse.

She kept her head down low and went to tidy those training tools.

But she was kicked to the ground from the back. Then another kick landed on her stomach, and she heard Baron's furious voice on the top of her head:

"What the fu ck did you say to that bitch Janet? Have you forgotten all about your families? Do you want to see your brother skinned alive? Or do you want your little sister end up in a fu cking whorehouse?"

"No...No!"

Maxie cried and struggled to sit up, grabbing Baron's pants.

"I—I didn't tell her anything. I would never betray you, Gamma Baron. Please don't hurt my families..."

Owen gave a hard kick on her shoulder, knocking her back to the floor again.

"Keep your hands off the Gamma, you filthy tramp!" he snarled.

Maxie bit her lips harshly.

She could easily take the both of them down if she wanted to.

But she couldn't.

Not with her families still in his hands.

She hadn't seen her families for 3 years. She didn't even know where they were at right now. Baron only let her video chat with them when he was in a good mood.

So she couldn't get him mad.

Maxie curled her body up and suffered without a sound as Owen punched and kicked her like a punching bag.

When he finally finished venting it out, Owen panted and paced to Baron's side, who was sitting on a desk and enjoying this scene the whole time.

Maxie coughed and she could taste blood in her mouth.

Bruise and wounds hurt like hell.

She had to grit her teeth tightly to stifle groans of pain.

Pulling her upper body up from the floor, Maxie crawled to Baron and grabbed his pants again.

"Gamma Baron...it has been 3 weeks since I last talked to my family..." she said weakly, "So can you... let me talk to them?"

"How dare you!" Owen snapped, "Haven't you caused the Gamma enough trouble in one day?"

Baron crackled, "It is OK, Owen. She is a greedy bitch. I am quite used to that already."

He dusted his pants with one hand and put his left foot on Maxie's knee.

"See that little dirt on my shoe?" Baron grinned malevolently, "If you can clean the dirt using your tongue, I might consider your request."

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Chapter 60

Chapter 60

Maxie froze.

She was struggling internally.

On the one side, there was her pride and dignity; yet on the other side, there was her families.

After a painful long pause, she chose the latter and slowly buried her face down to Baron's shoe.

Baron and Owen crackled with laughter as she did.

Maxie was the strongest female warrior in Riverside Pack. Having her submitted herself beneath their feet gave them a great sense of pleasure.

"See that, Owen?"

Baron leaned back in his chair and chuckled proudly.

"As long as you get the right handle, you can make the strongest warrior wiggle her butt in front of you like a fucking dog."

Owen smirked, "You are right, Gamma Baron."

Baron put his foot on Maxie's chest and asked, "Why were you talking with Janet before I arrived? What did she want?"

Maxie lowered her head and muttered, "She...heard some rumors and wanted to check on me to see if I am alright."

"What a nosy bitch!" Baron snarled, "And those rats in the packhouse need to be shaken up a bit. Owen, find out who has been a big mouth to Janet and plucked that person's tongue out.!"

"Yes, Gamma Baron."

"But she didn't ask about the account book?" Baron asked Maxie.

Maxie's long hair fell from her shoulder and covered her face like a curtain. After a short silence, she slightly shook her head.

"Good." Baron let out a sigh of relief. "Alpha Daran isn't very happy with my performance recently. I can't have him find out about this account book. Or we are going down together. Keep that thing safe, Maxie, and you will be rewarded for your loyalty."

"...Of course, Gamma Baron."

Baron rubbed his chin for a while and said to Maxie with a grin, “Now that I think about it—it has been 3 years since you last saw your family. It is probably time for you to go and visit them, don’t you think?”

Maxie snapped her head up.

Her eyes gleamed with thrill and excitement.

“Really? Do you really mean it, Gamma Baron?” she gasped.

“Why not?” Baron smiled idly, “You have been a good dog, Maxie. And it is time for you to get your treat.”

He turned the screen of his phone over to Maxie and showed her an address. It was a place at the suburb.

Maxie grabbed the phone and read the address three times to memorize it.

“Thank you, Gamma Baron...”

Maxie choked, her lips twitching.

“Thank you for letting me meet with my family.”

Baron waved his hand, “Just go and see them. And come back in time for the training tomorrow. But I do need to warn you this—Don’t try to take your family away. That place is heavily guarded.”

“No. Of course not. Thank you so much...”

Maxie scrambled up on her feet and dashed out of the warehouse.

She couldn’t wait to meet with her family again.

She used to have a happy family. Her parents were all civilians, and they lived a comfortable life with her father being a building manager and her mom a teacher at a local school. She had one brother and one sister, both of whom were in elementary school.

Things were perfect.

Until Baron came along and destroyed everything.

Maxie could still remember the day when Baron and his guards burst into their house and abducted her families.

Her parents were forced into the car with their eyes blindfolded.

Her little sister was carried away by 2 men and her devastated screaming still rang in Maxie's ear even today.

And everything was because of Baron.

She did try to report on Baron. But nobody in the upper society would believe her. They all thought Baron was a righteous man just like his father.

Maxie wanted to talk to Alpha Daran. But Baron kept a closed eye on her and never allowed her to come near to the Alpha.

So there was no one to do her justice.

The only way left for her was to do dirty works for Baron and kept her mouth shut about everything.

And she could handle these, as long as her families were safe.

Maxie ran out of the training field and jumped in her car. She started the engine and raced toward the direction of that location.

The last time they video chatted, her little sister cried about not being fed, which drove Maxie crazy.

Soon...very soon...she would be able to see her families and make sure they were OK...

Her car arrived at the location an hour later.

And it turned out to be a lumber camp.

Maxie jumped off her car and rushed toward the front gate, almost tripping herself along the way.

In the distance, she saw four very familiar figures.

It was her mom, her dad, her brother, and her little sis.

And the view of them made her heart ache—her aged parents were chopping woods under the surveillance of the guards. They were obviously exhausted but didn't dare to rest.

And her younger brother and sister were both carrying logs much heavier than they could handle. The moment they slowed down, they earned a whip on the back from the guard.

“Hustle up, lazy ass!” the guard snapped.

Maxie was devastated.

She picked up her speed running towards them and cried, “NO—Don’t hit them! Please—”

Her families jerked up and saw Maxie. They gasped a cry of shock and rushed to Maxie as well, all of them in tears.

But they were immediately stopped by the guards.

“What do you think you are doing?” one guard bellowed, “You still haven’t finished your work. Get back to it. NOW!”

Maxie tried to talk some sense into him, “I am here on Gamma Baron’s order. He allowed me to visit my family. Please let me talk to them and I will help them get these works done.”

“And Gamma Baron asked me to keep a closed eye on them! So go back to your work—” the guard wielded his whip making a cracking sound, “-NOW!”

The sound of the whip caused Maxie’s little sister to burst into tears.

Maxie clenched her fists in rage.

She could see wounds and blood stains on her families’ faces and bodies. And they all seemed haggard as though they had been living in constant fear for the last 3 years.

She couldn’t take it anymore.

“I said ”

Maxie hissed, flashing her wolf fangs.

“-MOVE!”

The guard took a step back in shock and gasped, “I—if you don’t follow the rules, I will report to Gamma Baron! And he will tear you apart!”

Just then, a deafening wolf howl came from the front gate, freezing everyone on their spots.

A gigantic black wolf appeared from the darkness of the night.

Its golden eyes gleamed coldly like two huge lanterns.

And the next second, it charged, quick as a thunder at the guard!

The guard let out a terrified scream and turned to ran. But he got knocked to the ground from the back. The giant wolf landed a paw on his head and trod his face directly into the mud.

The chaos attracted more guards' attention. They poured out of the lumber camp with guns and weapons in their hand.

But then they were horrified to discover that this lumber camp was surrounded by a large group of soldiers.

Maxie had rushed to her families and pulled them behind her back.

Turning to look that giant black wolf, Maxie inhaled sharply and gasped in disbelief:

"...A-Alpha?"

The wolf shifted back into a tall and handsome man.

Daran kept his foot on that guard's neck firmly and nodded to Maxie, "You are safe now."

Maxie couldn't believe this sudden turn of event, "I don't understand...how did you-"

A hand was placed on Maxie's shoulder. Maxie jerked around and found Janet smiling to her.

"We are here to help you," Janet said.

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Chapter 61

Chapter 61

Daran's soldiers poured into the lumber camp and controlled all guards. All hard labors in the camp were shivering in fear. Balvina quickly came to calm these people down.

Maxie still couldn't believe what she was saying, "But how did you know where my families are..."

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Daran walked over and answered on Janet's behalf, "Janet believed that Baron must have something on you to have you work for him. She found that your family hadn't returned to your old house for almost 3 years. And I have my men dug out the old surveillance footage from 3 years ago and found out where Baron took them."

He paused and then said with a deep voice, "Sorry Maxie, I should have found out that you were living under his control earlier."

Maxie covered her mouth and shook her head in tears. She and her families fell into each other's arms, sobbing on each other's shoulders, venting out everything they had suffered for the last 3 years.

Janet looked at them and felt her heart swell. She knew what it felt like to reunite with families. She got the same feeling when Casper brought her home almost an year ago.

At the meantime, Daran's soldiers brought the guard of this lumber camp over. The guard was no longer harsh and violent like he was earlier. Instead, he dropped on his knees unvolunteetarily in front of Daran in fear and trembled like a sheep.

"Alpha Daran," the guard quivered. "Please forgive us...We know nothing...We were simply told to keep an eye on these workers!"

"By whom?" Daran asked with a freezing voice.

The guard hesitated. The soldier standing behind his back grabbed his left hand and pinned it on the ground forcefully. Picking up an axe, the soldier looked at Daran and waited for his order.

"Chop his hand off," Daran sneered icily. "Maybe that will get him to talk."

"Yes Alpha!"

The soldier raised the axe high in the air. The lumber camp's guard let out a horrific screaming, "NO—Wait! My boss is Gamma Baron! Please...let me go!"

The soldier dropped the axe back down and grabbed his collar bringing him to Daran. Daran looked down at his fearful and sweaty face and asked, "Who are these workers? And what is this lumber camp for?"

The guard almost wet his pants earlier. He was ready to spill everything out now.

"T—These workers are all Gamma Baron's hostage. If someone defied him at work, Gamma Baron would abduct that person's family and brought people here. We got the family of his father's former captain who refused to take his order now, the accountant who wouldn't cook the book for him, a journalist who threatened to expose him and a few girls who didn't want to be his mistress..."

The longer that list got, the darker the look on Janet's face was.

She thought Baron was just a gutless puss. But as it turned out, he was so much more than that.

She regretted not getting to the bottom of this when Baron first set her up in the crazy bear incident.

Daran seemed furious as well. He glared at the guard and snapped, "So what do you have these people do all *day*? Chopping woods?"

"Well...yeah. This lumber camp is actually very lucrative, made Gamma Baron lot of money. And if somebody refused to collaborate, we'd take them into the forest and kill them there..."

Maxie's little sister gasped a small cry and buried her face into Maxie's arms. Maxie patted her shoulder and casted a resentful look at the guard.

Then she bent down to pick up the whip on the ground and turned to ask Daran, "Alpha, if I may?"

Daran gave her an affirmative nod.

Maxie strode forward, raising the whip up in the air, and laid a harsh lash across the guard's face, "-This one if for my father!"

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The guard screamed covering his face, rolling around in pain. But Maxie continued anyway, lashing that whip mercilessly.

"And my mother! My brother! My sister...And all the innocent people in this lumber camp!"

Workers gathered up around them and they watched Maxie beat that guard up. When she was through with it, the guard was on the ground, half-dead. A round of enthusiastic applause broke out from the crowd.

Maxie dropped the whip and turned back to Janet and Daran. Grateful tears were shinning in her eyes.

“Thank you...Alpha Daran, for stepping up for me and my family.” She choked, “And Gamma Janet, thank you for getting to the bottom of this. I treated you terribly earlier today and I feel awful...”

“You were threatened by Baron. We all get it,” Janet comforted her. “We’ll let the soldiers clean up this mess. But at the meantime, is there a place we can talk?” Maxie’s father quickly wiped the tears away from his eyes and nodded, “Of course. Please follow us, Alpha and Gamma Janet.”

They led Daran and Janet into a small cabin and closed the door.

“Your family is safe now, Maxie.” Daran said, “And I believe that you have come to realize what an evil person Baron is. All Riverside soldiers need to know that too. They can’t go to the battlefield with that bastard. So to accomplish that, we will have to-

get that account book. Yeah, I get it,” Maxie said with a low voice.

She fumbled in her collar and pulled out a necklace. There was a tiny golden locket on the necklace.

“Here.” she handed the locket to Daran, “There was an address and a number engraved inside of the locket. The address is the safe where I kept Baron’s account book in. And the number is the password.”

Daran took the locket and gripped it firmly.

“Thank you for your trust,” he said solemnly to Maxie.

“No need.” Maxie took a deep breath and replied to Daran with a smile, “I know that you are a wonderful Alpha. And I am glad to continue serving in your troops.”

With this lumber camp being taken down, all workers/prisoners needed to be sent back home. Daran spent a few hours talking to these people, making arrangement for them, and documenting their testimonies.

When all those works were done, Daran turned around and found that Janet still hadn’t left.

She was leaning against the wall, smiling to him.

A gentle smile touched Daran's lips as well as he walked towards her, "What happened? I thought you left already."

"I wanted to see if you need any help," Janet looked up into his gorgeous eyes. "You are quite a badass today, Alpha Daran."

Daran chuckled lowly and backed against the same wall next to Janet, "Not as badass as the Gamma who slaughtered a bunch of crazy bears."

The night breeze brushed their cheeks. The silver moonlight was soft and beautiful. After a long night of chaos, they both felt relaxed at this moment.

"You know-"

Janet broke the silence all of a sudden. There was a hint of nostalgic in her voice.

I was very happy when I found out that you are my mate. But not because you are handsome, or that you are the Alpha," she said.

Daran averted his head to look at her. His voice became hoarse, "Then what's the reason?"

"Because you always give people a sense of security. Like these prisoners here. The moment they saw you by the front gate, they instantly knew that they were safe. You have that kind of power in you, Daran."

"...But I let you down. Didn't I?" he asked.

Janet let out a small sneer, "Yeah, because you were so busy protecting someone else...But why are we talking about it now? It is so in the past already."

She stood up straight and wanted to leave. But a large hand caught her wrist and spined her around.

The next second she fell back into his arm.

"I know you don't need my protection anymore but..."

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His sexy and husky voice was by her ears. And his muscular arms tightly wrapped around her slim waist.

"...But I'm willing to take a bullet for you anytime, Janet," He said.

His firm chest was on an inch away from her nose. The familiar smell of his scent filled her nostrils.

Janet felt her heart skipped a leap at this moment.

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Chapter 62

Chapter 62

Janet had to breath deeply to calm herself down.

“You are doing it again,” she said and tilted her head away. There was a hint of accusation in her voice.

“Doing what?”

“Treating me like an innocent little girl and trying to fool me with sweet talks.” Janet struggled out of his arms and said, “You taking a bullet for me...That’s total crap.”

“Why?” Daran stepped aside and blocked her way of leaving, “You don’t think I can do it?”

“Well yeah. You are the Alpha...and it makes no sense for you to put your own safety at risk to protect me, another pack’s Gamma-”

“Who says an Alpha can’t protect his loved one?” Daran asked.

Words froze on Janet’s lips.

She was stunned. Shocked by Daran’s “loved one.”

...What did he mean by that?

Was he saying that she—Janet—was his loved one?!

“You are being ridiculous again.” Janet gulped in panic. Her cheek was going red. She was glad that it was so dark right now that Daran couldn’t see it.

“Janet-”

Daran seemed that he had something else to say. But before he said anything, Janet turned around abruptly and dashed away.

She ran all the way back to her car, jumped in and started the engine. As the car fast-forwarded down the countryside road, she finally let out that breathe she had been holding for a long time.

Her heart was thumping like crazy. She had to clench her grip tightly on the wheel to focus on the driving.

She hated to have her feelings and emotions being manipulated by Daran, which reminded her of her past, when she was crazily in love with Daran and would overthink the meaning of the smallest stuff he did.

But that was in the past now.

Right now, she should be focusing on training soldiers and going to war with rogues.

As for Daran...Well, he could go ahead and hit on any girls he liked.

Just not on her.

The following week, an explosive news spread across the entire Riverside Pack.

-Gamma Baron had been charged with corruption, false imprisonment, torture, abuse, and a series of other serious crimes.

Alpha Daran presented an account book to the elders which detailly documented all

Alpha Daran presented an account book to the elders, which detailly documented all the dirty trade Baron had been doing. Apparently, 80% of the military budget was pocket by Baron himself.

And a large group of people from the lumber camp was willing to testify for Baron's false imprisonment.

Everyone was shocked, especially those in the army.

Riverside soldiers all respected Baron's father very much. Naturally, they reflected some parts of that feeling on Baron, thinking that Baron was a decent guy too.

This news took a pretty hard strike on these people.

Janet found many soldiers getting distracted during the recent couple of days. Everyone's mind was on the Baron case, which had a more profound influence on the public than Harper.

With Harper, she was an upper-class lady, and the public would love to see her dirty get dug out. But she didn't have the power to shake things up in the society.

Yet Baron was the Gamma. Everything about him was tightly associated with the future of Riverside Pack.

Especially since this was a sensitive time—they were going to war with rogues with soon.

If Baron was taken down, who would become Gamma? And who would lead Riverside's troops?

It was natural for soldiers to get anxious.

On the fourth day after the news was released, Maxie went to talk to Janet during the training.

"How's it going? How are your families?" Janet asked her.

A smile came across Maxie's face at the mention of her family, "They are good. Thanks for asking. My parents might need to get their physical checkup and my brother and sister need to find a new school...but everything is on the right track now."

"Glad to hear that," Janet smiled. "Let me know if you need my help."

"Actually, I do right now...And it is about Baron."

Maxie showed Janet some text messages. And they were all from Baron during the last couple of days.

His tone in some earlier texts were nasty as ever.

[You bitch... You gave the account book to Baron, didn't you!]

[Your families were so dead! Prepare to receive body parts of your families!]

And then he gradually started to panic.

[How did you get your families out? Did you ask Janet to help you?!]

[Are you working with them right now?]

[We should be a team, Maxie! Wake up already!]

Then he practically started begging in the messages he sent to Maxie this morning.

[Please come and talk to me Maxie.]

[We can work this out.]

Janet chuckled and gave the phone back to Maxie, "You basically owned him right now. But why does he want to meet with you anyway?"

"I bet he wants me to take the blame for him, which had happened many times before," Maxie said icily.

"That bastard... You know you can totally ignore him, right?"

"Yeah, I do. But..."

Maxie paused and bit her lips. There was a reluctant look on her face.

"...It is just that most people in the army still didn't believe Baron was guilty," Maxie said with a heavy tone.

Janet frowned, "Really? Why? The evidence is right there."

"It is no secret that Alpha Daran didn't like Baron. Some soldiers believed that the evidence Alpha Daran presented are all fabricated. And this whole thing is a conspiracy."

The look on Janet's face became sullen.

These soldiers were more stubborn than she thought.

But these people's opinion couldn't be ignored. Daran might have the right to sentence Baron guilty, but he couldn't control the public opinion. If soldiers were convinced that their Alpha was a calculating tyrant, the whole army would fall apart. And it would be harder for them to win the war against rogues.

"So what do you think?" Maxie asked, "Do you have any good idea, Gamma Janet?"

Janet pondered for a while.

“I do have an idea,” she said slowly. “But it might require you to meet with Baron again. And I totally understand if you don’t want to do it.”

“I’ll do it!”

Maxie said eagerly without hesitation, “My families are safe now. Baron has no way to control me anymore. I want help Alpha Daran to take Baron down. And I will do anything for it!”

“Excellent.” Janet smiled and patted her shoulder. “Come with me. Let’s talk to Alpha Daran. We might need his help on this.”

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Chapter 63

Chapter 63

Janet brought Maxie to meet with Daran and together they worked out a plan. After nailing down the details, Maxie went to talk to Baron in house as they had discussed. The front door to Baron’s house was shut and all curtains tightly closed. There were some angry civilians and journalists outside of the house, yelling and asking Baron to come out.

Maxie took a detour and went behind the house. There was a back door. After 3 knocks, the door opened a crack and revealed Baron’s face.

“Get inside! Quick!” Baron hissed, grabbing Maxie in.

He had aged significantly in these past 3 days. His eyes were bloodshot and there were messy stubbles on his chin.

Even with the window shut and the drapes closed, they could still hear the angry cries from outside, which must be an emotional torment for Baron.

“What took you so long!” he hissed.

Maxie's face was cold, "I wasn't sure if I wanted to meet with you. We got nothing to talk to you."

"WHAT?"

Baron gasped in disbelief, widening his eyes as though this was the most ridiculous thing he had ever heard.

"You f**king betrayed me, Maxie! You gave my account book to Daran and that f**king bitch Janet! I trusted you with this and this is how you godman betrayed me!"

He paced around the room anxiously like one trapped dog.

"Why did you betray me? It makes no sense. We are on the same boat! You and me! We are a team! Did Daran and Janet force you into this? They must do. It was only reasonable-"

Maxie gasped, "They didn't force me anything! I gave them the account book myself. Voluntarily!"

Baron halted in his track abruptly.

His face twisted in rage.

"...What?" he gritted.

"We are no team, Baron." Maxie let out a cold sneer, "You threatened me with my family! You treated me like a f**king slave! You seriously think I was acting on my freewill to collaborate with you? NO F**KING WAY! I am disgusted by everything you do!"

Her words infuriated Baron big time. With a deafening howl, he charged at Maxie raising a fist.

He had abused Maxie thousands of times like that in the past 3 years.

But this time, Maxie refused to suffer it in silence.

She grabbed Baron's wrist easily with one hand and swirled her body. Baron was sent flying in the air like a shot put and hit against the fireplace with a huge crashing

sound

Baron dropped on the floor, curling up his body in pain, groaning. Maxie walked forward and pulled him out of the pile of charred woods and ashes.

“You seriously think I can’t fight back?” Maxie stared at him and hissed, “You are a weak puss to me, Baron. You can’t even take down a single bear on your own. You are only capable of threatening me with my family. And now your only leverage is gone. I can crush your sculp barehanded.”

Baron quivered, panting roughly.

“s–Stop!”

He cried urgently in panic.

“My father was your mentor! H–He was nice to you! He made you a strong warrior! You can’t treat his only son like this-

–

“I think he’ll beat the shit out of you first if he sees you like that,” Maxie snarled. “And stop using other people to manipulate me! I have had it enough!”

She set Baron down in the corner and stared down at him coldly.

“Spill it. Why do you want to meet with me today?” she asked.

The rude and aggressive version of Baron was gone. Now he was shivering by the corner like a defeated dog.

“I–I can’t go to trials.” He gulped in fear, “You saw how things went with Lady Harper not long ago. Those ignorant civilians will skin me alive...”

“Then what do you want me to do?”

Baron grabbed Maxie’s pants with a shaky hand and begged, “Get me out of town before my trial, please. I know you can do this, Maxie! I still have some money hidden elsewhere. Once I am out, I will pay you with a shit load! I promise!”

A disgusted look flickered by Maxie’s eyes.

“So you are going to flee?” she snarled. “What about those people who still had faith in you? Do you know that there was still a great deal of soldiers who believed that you were innocent now? Don’t you think that you owe them an apology?”

“I DON’T F**KING CARE!” Baron roared.

His face contorted slightly. There was a crazy gleam in his eyes.

“I don’t f**king care what others think, OK?”

Baron breathed heavily and snarled:

“All I care right now is my own safety. You know what? This is probably for the best. It was fun being the Gamma before but things had changed not that we are about to go to war. I don’t want to die in the battlefield like my stupid father did! So jokes on those idiots who made me Gamma. I am out of here!”

Maxie clenched her fists.

“And what about those people you hurt? Those families you broke apart? Don’t you want to at least apologize to them?” she asked freezingly.

Baron waved his hands impatiently, “Can we focus on me right now? I stepped on an ant while walking today. Do I need to apologize for killing that ant as well?”

Maxie inhaled deeply.

Then she let out a sarcastic snort.

“I think your little speech just made it a lot easier for people to accept that you are a complete jerk,” she said.

Baron blinked blankly, “W–What do you mean?”

Maxie pulled off a brooch from her shirt and put it up to Baron’s eyes.

Baron stared at it, and he was shocked to notice that a small camera was hidden within that brooch.

“Say hello to your soldiers. I’ve been streaming this alive.”

Maxie said icily, looking at Baron’s horror–struck face.

“Now the joke is on whom?”

At the same time. Riverside Pack’s training field,

All soldiers were gathered under the large screen that was set up in the field earlier. They looked up at Baron’s face on screen with a furious look on each of their faces. “I couldn’t believe I ever trusted that guy!” somebody cried.

“Yeah! We had faith in him. Yet he called us idiots!”

“And he pocketed the money that should be used to buy us new uniforms, training facilities and weapons. Asshole!”

The noise and angry mutterings grew louder and louder. Until somebody stepped out and cried:

“Let’s head to Baron’s house now! And make him spill out the money he took from us!”

His suggestion was agreed by many.

The huge crowd started pouring to the front gate.

In the near distance, Janet was watching this scene with her arm folded in front of her chest. Balvina was standing by her side, and she asked, “Aren’t you worried that this would turn into a riot?”

Janet shrugged, “I’m only afraid that they don’t kick Baron’s ass hard enough. Let’s follow them. The show is about to begin.”

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Chapter 64

Chapter 64

Half an hour later, a large group of soldiers poured into Baron’s front yard. They attracted quite a few people’s attention on their way coming down there. So right now there was a group following them, watching them avidly.

There were even some discussions among the watching crowd:

“What is the fuzz here? Why are so many people heading over to Gamma Baron’s house?”

“I checked with one of the soldiers...he said Gamma Baron committed a serious crime. And they are going to confront him with it.”

“Christ. I know that Baron is no decent person! Remember the time he got paraded publicly? First Lady Harper and then him... Riverside Pack is so doomed.”

“Who cares? Let’s go see him get beaten up by his own soldiers.”

Soon enough, Baron’s front yard was jammed with infuriated soldiers and nosy bystanders.

One soldier marched up to the top stair and hammered on Baron’s door:

“Open up!”

“Yeah, open the damn door! We know you are in there!”

“Spill our money out, you asshole!”

Nobody came to the door. People soon lost their patience and one suggested, “Let’s kick the door down!”

His suggestion was agreed by many. A few soldiers rushed at the door and bumped against the door with their shoulders together.

With a great thump, the door budged, and people poured into the house together. In the living room, Baron was crawling towards the back door trying to get away. He had heard people calling his name outside of the door and he got panic. He tried to attack Maxie and sought a way of escaping. But Maxie grabbed his collar and stopped him.

Finding that he was now surrounded by angry soldiers, Baron gulped down nervously with a terrific look on his face. But he quickly composed himself. Scrambling up to his feet, Baron pointed a finger at the crowd and cried:

“Who allowed you into my house?! This is trespassing! I can have you beheaded for that! Now get the hell out of my place!”

He was still trying to scare people by playing the mighty Gamma.

But nobody gave a shit about him anymore.

He had lost people’s trust and respect already.

“Is it true, Gamma Baron? That you pocketed the pack’s money?” someone in the crowd cried.

Baron wiped the cold sweat on his forehead and stammered, “That’s nonsense. I devoted every penny I received into our army-”

“But how do you explain the crappy training facilities, the terrible food served in the army and everyone’s shabby uniform?! Some people got food poison last year eating expired food you gave us!”

Baron backed away from the furious crowd slowly, “That’s on the head of purchasing. Not on me.,.”

An angry voice came from the crowd, “I am your head of purchasing! I applied for more money to purchase better ingredients for our soldiers, but you denied my application! You said that we didn’t have that kind of money! And it was simple food poison, nothing too serious. How dare you blame this on me now!!”

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Scious. Low call you via uns on me now::

The crowd with filled with indignation when they heard this.

“Simple food poison?!” somebody snarled, “I got diarrhea for a week straight! I almost died out of dehydration! How would you like to have some bad food?”

“And that was not even the worst thing he did!”

A young man pushed across the crowd and came to the front. His eyes were glinting with fury tears.

He pointed at Baron and cried loudly, “He imprisoned my brother for 2 years! Just because my brother didn’t want to take order from him when he became Gamma! He told everyone that my brother died in the battlefield fighting rogues. But the truth is he kept my brother in a lumber camp as his slave! None of us knew that my brother was still alive until Alpha Daran rescued him a few days ago! It was 2 f**king years! My brother didn’t even get to see our mother for the last time before she passed away! You deserve to rot in hell, Baron!”

With hot tears streaming down his face, the young man raised his fist up high in the air and rushed at Baron. Baron dodged in panic, but the young man’s fist still caught him on his chin.

Blood ran down from the corner of his mouth. Baron jerked around and faced the crowd with a raging face.

“Stop this—RIGHT NOW!”

Baron breathed heavily and backed against wall facing the large crowd by himself. His fists were tightly clenched. And his wolf fangs were starting to appear.

“I haven’t been convicted for any crimes yet! Which means—I am still your Gamma!” he roared.

“Not for long!” Maxie snapped, “After all that you had done, do you seriously believe that we are still going to allow you to lead us?”

“Who cares what you think!” Baron cried.

He grinned hideously, glaring at the whole crowd with a crazy enthusiasm gleaming in his eyes.

“My father is a war hero. And he is friend with every elder in Riverside Pack! The elders will know that I am innocent. They will protect me! And I will still be your Gamma. And when that day comes-”

He cackled evilly.

“-I will have every single one of you flogged and beheaded! For your disrespect to me today!!!”

There was a short moment of silence among the crowd.

And then, a voice came from the door, “Are you sure about this, Baron?”

People turned around to look for the source of that voice.

Janet and Daran just stepped through the door together, with all 6 elders following them behind their back!

There was a sarcastic smile on Janet’s face as she went over to Baron, “You won’t admit your own failure till the very end, will you? I have got to give you credit for that, Baron–You are so exceptionally stupid and arrogant

Baron’s face was pale. He gazed at the elders and stammered in panic, “No–No you won’t do this to me. Elders, please! For my father’s sake-”

“You have exploited your right as the hero’s son, Baron.” An elder said sternly, “Your sin shall not be forgiven!”

Baron quickly looked towards the other elders. Some avoided eye contact with him, some glared back at him coldly.

“N–No...you can’t..”

Baron shivered terribly from head to toe. He was on the verge of a meltdown, “I inherited this position from my father. I am always the Gamma. You can’t take it away from me...

Daran interrupted his crazy muttering coldly, "I certainly can. Starting today, the Gamma position will not be inherited. A more capable person will replace you and that person will bring justice and order back to this army."

"NO!" Baron shrieked, "Who on earth is more capable than me—"

"Maxie."

Daran raised his voice and looked toward Maxie, who seemed a little taken aback when she got called upon.

"From now on, you will be our next Gamma," Daran announced with a smile.

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Chapter 65

Chapter 65

Maxie slightly parted her lips as though she couldn't believe what Daran just said. And so was everyone else.

They were all staring at Daran and Maxie, dumbfounded, as this information sank in.

Janet was the first one to start clapping. She smiled looking at Maxie and cried, "Go Maxie!"

Maxie's face went red instantly.

"W-Wait! I can't!" she waved her hands in panic and gasped, "There are so many capable and strong warriors in the army. I can't be your only choice—"

"You are not our only choice. But you are our best choice," Daran said with an encouraging smile. "You have been training our soldiers. You have the experience, and

you are familiar with how things are done here in Riverside Pack. I have discussed this with the elders. They all agreed with me on this."

“That’s right, Maxie. You have all of our support,” one of the elders echoed. “With you being the Gamma, we can finally bring things back on the right track.” Maxie still seemed overwhelmed.

There was a heated discussion among the crowd.

“I agree with Alpha Daran. Maxje is a great choice,” one soldiers said esthetically. “Baron was never around much. It was Maxie who led us through all those trainings. She is strong, smart, and experienced. I can’t think of a better person.”

“I don’t have a problem with her being our Gamma! She is way better than Baron!”

A female soldier cried feverishly, “And she will be our first female Gamma in Riverside Pack! Finally, we put a woman in charge!”

Gradually, all noises mixed together, and they became one strong and united voice. Everyone was cheering, calling the same name loudly:

“-Maxie! Maxie! Maxie!”

Maxie’s cheeks seemed to be on fire. She looked both flattered and nervous. Apparently, she hadn’t received this much attention before.

Janet noticed her embarrassment. Leaning toward Maxie, Janet whispered into Maxie’s ear, “You better agree to them now or they will keep calling your name forever.”

Maxie looked at her helplessly, “I don’t know, Janet...I don’t know if I can do it or not. Leading a whole army? It might be too much for me.”

“What are you talking about? You HAVE BEEN doing this for a while already, remember? You stopped this army from falling apart while Baron was absent. Now it is time for you to receive your credit.”

Janet gave a gentle nudge at Maxie’s shoulder and cried, “Attention, everyone! Your new Gamma would like to have a word!”

The crowd quite down instantly. All eyes were on Maxie.

Maxie gulped nervously. For a second, she seemed as though she was getting a panic attack. But she pulled through that.

Slightly raising her voice, Maxie said with a shaky yet determined voice, “Thank you for your trust and support everyone...I really appreciate it. Let’s—let’s work together to defend our pack...and kick some rogue’s ass!”

She was responded by a round of loud cheering and applause.

“Well said, Gamma Maxie!”

“Let’s do it!”

Maxie’s face took on an affectionate glow. She peeked at Janet and smiled gratefully. Just then, the young man who accused Baron of imprisoning his father stepped out and cried, “Wait a second. What about Baron? Was he going to face a public trial like Lady Harper? We are all waiting for him to get punished!”

Baron had dropped down on his knees when Daran announced Maxie as the Gamma. His face was ashy with terror and despair.

He was forced to face with the fact that this was probably the end for him.

His soldiers all betrayed him. The elders had stopped protecting him. And playing his father’s card didn’t work anymore.

He had got nowhere else to turn anymore..

Now with everyone’s eyes back on him, Baron trembled like a leaf in the wind. He shuffled forward on his knees, groveling, and begged:

“Alpha Daran...and the elders...I have realized my mistake now. I really am! I am willing to work as a slave for the rest of my life—just don’t kill me. Please!”

Daran looked down at Baron coldly. His face was filled with despise.

“Where is the money you took from the pack?” Daran asked, “Spill it out first. Then we’ll talk about your sentence.”

Baron avoided Daran’s eyes shiftily, “I spent it...There is nothing left.”

People gasped in shock. An elder cried angrily, “You took 3 billion out of the military budget. And now you are telling us you spent them all?! How is this possible!”

“It is true!” Baron straightened his upper body and said, “On cars, luxury goods, women...However, if you agree to pardon me from the death sentence, I can probably remember where I keep the rest of the money at...”

There was an ugly look on Daran’s face.

This was straight-up blackmail!

Baron knew they needed this money—especially at a time when they were building an army to fight back the rogues.

This missing 3 billion was Baron's last resource. He wouldn't spill it out easily!

"Hey!" Janet called and got people to look at her.

She was standing by the wall of the fireplace. She brought her thumb to scrub on the brick wall a few times. Oddly, the brick started to peel as though it was made of mud and pulp, instead of concrete.

"This is quite an artistic wall you have here."

Janet turned around and smiled at Baron, whose face turned pale almost instantly.

"Tell me, Baron. Why do you build your house with mud and paper? What are you trying to hide behind these walls?"

"N-Nothing! It is environmentally friendly this way...DON'T TOUCH MY WALL!" Baron shrieked out of despair.

Janet let out an icy snort and picked up a side table. Raising the table above her head, Janet threw it at the wall with her whole might!

The table hit against the wall and shattered into pieces. And the most astonishing thing happened—a crack appeared on the "brick wall" and it gradually became larger.

Then, with a crashing sound, the entire three-story wall peeled and crumbled.

Revealing a massive stock of gold hidden behind!

This was where Baron kept his dirty money at—right here in his own house and everyone's eyes!

His whole house was made of pure gold!

"OH. MY. GOD." An elder murmured in disbelief.

Everyone present was rendered speechless by this shocking scene in front of them. Just then, Baron suddenly jumped up from the floor and dashed to the front door. He was lashing out like a cornered animal!

Yet he didn't even make it to a few steps far before getting tackled down by Maxie again. The angry crowd sprung upon him. Countless kicks and punches fell on his body.

Baron covered his head with both of his hands and screamed. But his cry for help was drowned out by the noise of the crowd. And from their back came Daran's old and stern voice:

“Lock him up in the dungeon. He will be executed in the Civic Square. In 3 days.”

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Chapter 66

Chapter 66

The news of Baron being thrown into jail spread across the Riverside Pack fast. Soon everyone knew about it.

And that included the Diaz.

Hellen was in the dining room having lunch with Paul when the news broke. She got so mad that she poured a whole pot of hot tea onto the maid's face and smashed the pot against the wall afterward.

“What are we going to do?!” Hellen screamed at Paul, “We spent 20 thousand on Baron so that Owen could get that job. It hasn't been a whole week yet and Baron is in jail now? We are basically throwing away cash!”

Paul was frustrated as well.

The Minister of Finance was on his back every single day pushing him to pay back the missing tax. It was a hell lot of pressure.

Yet the Diaz didn't have much money left. Their lavish lifestyle drained their pocket. They wouldn't have that 20 thousand to bribe Baron if Paul didn't sell a few of his diamond watches.

All their hope was on Owen now—hoping that he could have a say in the pack business by cozying up Baron.

But now, their only leverage was gone!

“I knew this was a terrible idea!” Paul couldn't help but complain, “We should never bribe Baron! I even sold my watch for this-”

“The entire family is going down and you are worried about your stupid watch?!” Hellen screamed at the top of her lungs, her face going red. “And you were the first one to jump on board when Owen came up with that idea, you dumbass!”

“Stop yelling at me you crazy woman-

Hellen grabbed the tablecloth and pulled, sweeping everything on the table to the floor, “I will yell if I want to! I said we shouldn’t give up on Harper! But you cold-blooded monster said Harper was finished! And now what—not only your daughter but your son was also finished!”

“ENOUGH!!” Paul clenched his chest and shouted, spitting all over the place. “I WILL F**KING strangle you if you yell at me again. I f**king swear!!!”

The couple slumped down on the mess, and both breathed heavily.

After a long while, Paul raked his hair and sighed, “It is too early to assign blame... What we should do now...is to come up with a plan.”

“Oh, what plan do you have, brilliant mind?” Hellen asked sarcastically.

“Shall we go back to Harper again?” Paul asked reluctantly.

“Your daughter was in the slum scrubbing toilet like a slave! She couldn’t even get Alpha Daran to make her Luna when she was a princess. Why do you think he will like her now?! No man will like her the way she is, not even a hobo!”

“Don’t talk to me like that!” Paul snapped, “Well then, I think we should talk to Owen first! It was his idea in the first place to bribe Baron. He should know what to do now!”

Hellen pulled herself up and dusted off the food scraps off her skirt, “Yeah good call.”

The couple hurried out of the dining room and went to find Owen.

They eventually found him in the home gym downstairs, lifting weights.

“Oh my god, Owen! What are you still doing here? The world is about to end!”

Hellen screamed rushing into the home gym and snatching the weight away from Owen, “Haven’t you heard? Baron is in jail!”

Baron smiled and picked up a towel to drain his sweat, “I heard you, mother. Relax. There is nothing to worry about.”

“What do you mean?” Paul pursued eagerly, “Do you have a plan already?”

“Baron might be in jail. But do you know who became Gamma after him?” Baron grinned.

“Who?” asked the couple simultaneously.

“His subordinate, AKA his father’s apprentice, Maxie.”

Hellen blinked blankly, “...A woman?”

Paul rolled his eyes, “Pointing a woman as Gamma...Alpha Daran is seriously out of his mind.”

“But this works in my advance, father!” Baron said, “Think about it. With Baron around, I will never get to be the mainstay. I will always be his puppet. Yet with Maxie...I can finally get my hands on the wheel! She is weak and fragile-”

“Right. Woman in army is good for nothing,” Paul snorted.

“Exactly. So she needs a strong and capable man like me to fight the battles! I will have many more chances to shine now, mom and dad!”

Hellen covered her mouth and gasped in joy. Even Paul seemed much happier than he was earlier, “Brilliant thinking, son. So how is your relationship with this Maxie? Have you talked to her before?”

Owen shrugged, “A couple of times, yeah. I might have punched her a few times during training but that just proved that I am manly.”

Hellen and Paul exchanged a worried look.

“I think we should probably come with you to visit this Gamma Maxie... You know. To pave the way for

you,” Hellen said. “I will bring some of my handmade cookies.” Owen shrugged, “I don’t think that is necessary but if you insist, mother.” He tossed the towel on the floor and pulled a sweetie jersey over his head.

Aren’t you going to wear something more decent, son?” Paul asked. “You don’t know women well enough, father. They love it when we dress athletically. Show them that we are butch. Let’s go now, mom and dad.”

Owen took Hellen and Paul to the training field and asked a soldier where Maxie was. He was told that the new Gamma was in her office right now.

So they went to the Gamma's office. Owen pushed the door open without knocking and found Janet and Maxie putting pins on a huge map together in the room.

Hellen's mouth formed a shocking "o" when she saw Janet.

"What is she doing here!" Hellen pointed at Janet and cried.

Janet raised an eyebrow, "This is the Gamma's office. I am a Gamma. Of course, I can be here. What are YOU doing here, Mrs. Diaz? Coming to kiss the new Gamma's ass with your son?"

Maxie looked at Owen. Her eyes freezing cold.

"What do you want?" she asked.

Owen strode forward very confidently and beamed at Maxie, "I am here to propose a partnership."

Maxie said nothing and simply stared at him icily. Janet crossed her arms in front of her chest and asked, "Let's hear it. What partnership?"

Owen darted Janet a look and turned to Maxie again, "I am willing to fight battles for you in exchange for more power in the army. I get it that as a female Gamma, you have many disadvantages. You don't have a strong physique and your fighting skill is poor. But don't worry. I am here for you now."

Janet couldn't hold it anymore. She burst into laughter.

"What are you laughing at!" Hellen snapped furiously, "My son is talking to his new Gamma now!"

Janet giggled, "Every time I think you guys have reached the top of dumbness, you come in and surprise me all over again. Tell me, Owen, do you really think Maxie is weaker than you?"

Owen rolled his eyes at Janet, "Of course, you are both women. Women are by birth weaker than men. You can't argue with the natural course."

Maxie seemed as though she wanted to punch Owen in his face. But Janet put a hand on her shoulder to stop her.

"Well, if you say so-

Janet rolled up her sleeves and walked up to Owen, smiling.

let's do a one-on-one. Right here. Right now. The loser will do laps around the field on their knees while barking like a f**king dog."

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Chapter 67

Chapter 67

Hearing Janet's proposal, Owen couldn't help but burst out laughing.

"You want to do a one-on-one with me?"

Owen stepped forward, cracking his knuckles. There was an arrogant smile on his lips.

"Forgot how I used to punch you like a sack of potatoes when we were little? Missing all those bruises and wounds now, little Janet?" Owen teased.

Janet stretched her neck a little and raised her fists, getting into her fighting pose.

"Bring it in, Owen," she said.

Owen snorted and pulled off his jersey, revealing his rock-hard muscles. He spent 20 hours a week in the gym to build this body. He was very proud of his huge biceps. and firm chest.

Janet was like a skinny chick in front of him. He could crush her into crumples with one thumb.

"Go get her son!" Hellen cried by the side, "Kick her ass for your sister!"

With a loud roar, Owen raised his fist and jumped at Janet. She dodged sideways and waltzed to his back, quick and agile like a cat. She raised a leg and kicked on Owen's butt and sent him staggering a few steps before falling on his knees.

"Looking for something on the floor there, Owen?" Janet laughed.

Maxie chuckled as well and started clapping and cheering for Janet.

Owen's face became tomato red. He let out a furious roar and scrambled back onto his feet. He turned and charged at Janet again like a crazy bull.

This time Janet didn't dodge. Instead, she remained firmly on her spot and raised a single hand.

Even Hellen couldn't help but widen her eyes in shock: Janet was going to take his punch barehanded? But that was impossible! She was tiny!

"Punch her son!" Paul cried excitedly, "Crash her skull!"

Owen howled and smashed down his massive fist. Yet in the next second, his hand fell right into Janet's firm grip and froze in the air. Owen tried to pull his hand back, but he couldn't.

It was like his hand was clamped by a pincer.

Janet looked up at Owen's red face and grinned:

"-My turn now.

She balled her hand into a fist and caught Owen on the chin with a perfect uppercut. Everyone present heard a crisp crashing sound—the sound of breaking bones.

Then Owen let out a painful cry and dropped to his knees, holding his dislocated jaws.

Hellen and Paul couldn't believe their eyes—it was less than half a minute and Owen was already defeated!

And Janet already struck again. She kicked Owen's face brutally and knocked his huge body to the ground.

Hellen literally saw a broken tooth fly out of Owen's mouth.

Owen cried desperately and tried to get back up on his feet. Yet Janet stepped on his shoulder the next second and pinned him to the floor.

"You think I am still that little girl who couldn't fight back?" Janet snorted, "This is for looking down at women. And for looking down at me.

She grabbed Owen's collar, aiming at his nose, and punched again.

Hellen couldn't watch this anymore. She wanted to rush forward and stop Janet but Pull tugged at her sleeve.

“Let’s wait till she finishes,” Paul whispered into her ear. “If Owen is injured severely, she will have to pay us a shit load of medical fees.”

5 minutes later, Janet finally dropped Owen back on the floor, who had passed out already.

She casually wiped the blood off her knuckle onto Owen’s jersey and turned to the Diaz couple, smiling, “If you don’t want to end up on the floor like your son, now is the time for you to f**k off.”

Hellen was shivering tremendously in fear. She gulped and asked with a shaky voice, “Y–You abused our son! Isn’t that against the law? We won’t leave until you send him to the hospital—and pay for the medical bill!”

“And our emotional trauma!” Paul added quickly, “Write us a check!”

Janet rolled her eyes.

Maxie spoke up with a cold voice, “The duel has clear rules. Each participant is responsible for their own life and death. Janet doesn’t need to pay you a nickel even if she kills your son right here today.”

“What?” Hellen cried, “We never heard of such rules! It doesn’t count!”

“It was written in the Pack’s law,” Janet shrugged. “If you have a problem with this, maybe I should send you to the person who made the rule. Say...Alpha Daran?”

Hellen and Paul both quivered.

Their tax problem hadn’t been sorted out yet. The last person they wanted to see right now was Daran.

“Then we should probably take him home and treat his wounds...” Hellen said. weakly.

“Your son already missed the training this morning. He will stay here as I see through his daily practice,” Maxie said icily.

“He has passed out! How do you expect him to train like that!” Paul cried.

“Don’t worry. I have plenty of ways,” Maxie glanced in Owen’s direction coldly as though looking at a dead corpse.

“Well, I should probably get going.”

Janet grabbed her coat on the couch and winked at Maxie, “Can I leave Owen with you?”

Maxie grinned flashing her white teeth, "Certainly. He will be in very good hands." Janet laughed and walked out of the office. She could still hear Hellen and Paul's voices pleading for mercy when she reached the staircase.

Janet knew that she had beaten Owen a little too hard today.

But that was necessary.

On the one hand, she did want to get back at him for how he abused her in the past; on the other hand, she needed Owen to stop causing drama one thing for all.

She and Maxie were studying the map before the Diaz walked in. The alliance had decided to send troops to the border soon. Both Janet and Maxie were in the advance force leaving in a few days.

A war was happening.

And they couldn't afford to have a mole in their troops.

So she needed to make sure Owen was docile like a kitten.

Janet left the building and went to meet with the other 3 Gammas. The four of them nailed down a couple more details of this deployment of troops. They even went over their program of defense one more time.

None of them knew when the rogues would attack.

All they could do now was to be prepared.

When the meeting came to an end, it had already passed midnight. They came out of the training field and headed back to the hotel together.

Jeff, the Gamma from Black Water Pack, yawned widely on their way back, "God, I am exhausted. All I want to do is to sleep right now."

"Get ready to the life with no sleep," Steven from Crimson Peak Pack told him, "Because you ain't getting any of those on the battlefield."

"I know, I know! This is why I need to get as much sleep as I can before I am forced to spend the night in a pond of icy mud or on tree branches...Hey Glen! Where are you going?"

Jeff called out to Glen, who was walking in the opposite direction from them.

“I got a call from the girl I met in the bar last night,” Glen waved his phone and chuckled. “Later, boys!”

His long hair flew as he marched down the pavement in long strides.

Jeff stared at his back jealousy, “I envy his energy. Never miss out on the fun in life even at a time like this...This dude is a legend.”

“What about you, Janet?” Steven asked, “Are you going back to the hotel with us?”

“Actually...”

Janet looked back at him and smiled, “Why don’t you two head back first? I think there is someone I want to see as well.”

She was gazing into the distance when she found that the light in Daran’s office was still on.

And she was suddenly in the mood for a glass of wine.

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Chapter 68

Chapter 68

The last time Janet was at Daran’s office, there weren’t any guards standing by the door outside. She walked in and found Baron’s sister Silvia groping all over Daran.

Tonight when she arrived at Daran’s office, she happened to run into Silvia again.

Only this time Silvia was kept outside of the office door.

Two guards blocked her way. And she was crying in an anguished tone, “Please...Just

let me talk to him! Let me go inside. You guys let me the last time, remember?” “We can’t, Miss.” One guard said, “Alpha said that he didn’t want to see you.”

“You didn’t even check with him first! How do you know whether he wants to see me or not?!” Silvia snapped.

Two guards exchanged a look together.

And then another guard said, “Your brother, the former Gamma, had caused enough trouble to this pack. The Alpha is in his office dealing with the mess your brother left. It is best if you don’t go in there and disturb him.”

Silvia’s beautiful face contorted in rage.

“You bunch of snobs! You are only stopping me because my brother has lost his power! But my father is a war hero! And he will always be a hero! Doesn’t that mean anything to you? You wouldn’t even be here if my father hadn’t fought off the rogues! So move your ass and let me in now!”

She charged forward and tried to run past the guard. They seized her arms, and she started screaming abruptly:

“Somebody help! Alpha Daran! Your guards are touching me! They are harassing me! God, they are tearing off my clothes-”

“Stop yelling!”

Janet raised her voice and snapped as she stepped out of the corner where she had been standing.

The guards seemed relieved to see Janet. They bowed to her humbly and asked, “Good evening, Gamma Janet. Miss Silvia demanded to see Alpha Daran and we don’t know what to do-”

Silvia struggled against the guard’s grip and snarled, “Why are you asking for her opinion?! She wasn’t even a member of the Riverside Pack. She is a f*cking outsider!”

“Outsider?”

Janet sneered and walked up to Silvia. Her gorgeous eyes gleamed with sarcasm, “Should I remind you that I was once your Alpha’s mate and the Luna of Riverside? I share half of the ownership of everything in this pack...including the property that you are currently standing on.”

Silvia looked furious, “Everyone knew that Alpha Daran rejected you! You are ancient history now! Damaged Goods! Alpha Daran doesn’t give a damn about you anymore. So you have no right to-”

“Wrong.”

An icy voice came behind their back. The office door was wrenched open from inside and Daran was standing there staring at Silvia sullenly.

Silvia was stunned, "Alpha Daran..."

Daran's eyes glinted coldly.

And he said, "Janet is the most important person in my life and I will any price to have her back as my mate and my Luna. Which means that she has every right in this pack as I do, including expelling you from Riverside."

Silvia couldn't help but quiver away from Daran's sharp gaze,

Daran stepped aside and turned to Janet, the look on his face turned soft immediately, "You want to come inside?"

Janet nodded and walked over,

Before she shut the door onto Silvia's face, she looked at Silvia in her eyes one more time and smiled, "Oh one more thing. I don't need to be Daran's mate and Luna to throw you out of here. I am a Gamma, who has thousands of soldiers following my lead. I don't have to rely on anybody. Unlike you, without your father and brother, you are nothing."

She shut the door with a bang and blocked Silvia's screaming from outside. She turned and looked at Daran, who had a frustrated look on his face.

"Sorry you have to see that," Daran sighed.

"No, I get it. Crazy admirer. Been there," Janet shrugged with a smile.

Daran slightly narrowed his eyes. And his voice turned dark, "You have crazy admirers too?"

Janet sensed a hint of jealousy in his voice. But she pretended that she didn't notice that, "It is perfectly natural for a single woman like me to have admirers, don't you think?"

"Anyone I have met?" Daran demanded, "That soldier of yours, Kass? Glen? Silver Claw's Alpha Jared? Or-"

"That's quite a list. How long have you been working on that?" Janet giggled.

She paced to the wine cabinet to pour herself a glass. Daran followed right behind her. His eyes lingered on the back of her neck and his voice became hoarse, "How I wish to mark you as mine and no man would ever dare to come near you ever again-"

“Well, you can’t.”

Janet turned around with two glasses of wine and shoved one of them into Daran’s hand.

She smiled slyly, “You could, but you threw that chance away. Remember?”

Daran tightened his grip on the wine glass, “How many times are you going to remind me of the biggest mistake of my life?”

“Till I get bored. And I am enjoying this little inside joke too much right now. So it is not going to happen anytime soon.”

Janet tilted her glass and clinked it with Daran’s, “Cheers.”

She took a sip and then paced to Daran’s desk, “What are you walking on so late at night?”

“The mess Baron left behind. I need to make sure all the money he pocketed flows in the right direction now...And also, the battle plan.”

Daran followed Janet to his desk and pulled out a map from the bottom of the pile of files.

“I got a report from the border early today saying that they had found trails of the rogues moving eastward. If this piece of information is accurate, I think the rogue’s

first stop is going to be—”

He tapped a red circle on the map.

“Greenwald Village,” Janet agreed with a nod. “Yes, Maxie and I were just talking about this today. We’ll take the advance force to Greenwald Village and build an outpost there. If the rogues dare to invade us, we will kick their ass hard.” “Promise me to stay safe. And don’t get yourself in danger,” Daran said huskily. Janet turned to meet his eyes. A soft smile appeared on her lips, “Are you questioning my ability?”

“No. I know you are a strong warrior and a capable Gamma. The thing is...” He paused. And raised a hand to push a lock of Janet’s hair out of her face.

...I care too much about you,” he breathed.

Janet held her breath involuntarily as he brought his hand to cup her cheek. They both stared at each other deeply with their heart rates quickening.

Janet put her hand on Daran’s. But she didn’t push him away.

“You know...” she whispered with a quiet voice, “There is something I want to do before-”

Just then, the office door flew open interrupting their moment. A guard came rushing inside and cried, “Alpha Daran!”

Daran snapped his head around and snapped, “Out!”

But the guard didn’t listen to his order this time. Instead, he stood on his spot and said with a shaky voice:

“Alpha Daran...The rogues are coming. NOW!”

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Chapter 69

Chapter 69

“Now? Have they arrived at the border already?” Daran snapped.

“No, not the border.”

The guard looked horrified.

“They attacked Fox Town earlier this evening, which is only about 50 miles from here! The whole village was burnt down to the ground...Alpha, you have got to come and take a look!”

Janet widened her eyes in shock.

...How was this even possible?

How did the rouges cross the border without anyone noticing and come this far into their territory?

Most importantly, the timing was super suspicious.

They were just about to send out their advance force to the border. Yet the rogues acted before they did and ambushed their village first.

Did the rogues know where they planned to deploy troops?

...Had anyone been feeding information to the rogues?

That thought sent a chill down Janet's spine.

"Janet!"

Daran cried and snapped Janet back to reality.

"I need to go down to the Fox Town immediately," he said.

"I am coming with you!" Janet hissed.

Daran frowned. He dashed out of the office with Janet following on his heels. When they reached the ground floor, Daran said to her hastily, "Gather your best men and meet me at Fox Town. Be careful!"

"You too."

Janet hurried down the stairs and rushed into the night.

She called Balvina first, asking her to assemble their soldiers. Balvina sounded sleepy at first. But she jerked wide awake when Janet told her what happened.

"Rogues at Fox Town?! Tonight?" she cried with the rustling sound of clothes in her background. She was getting dressed at the same time, "But how is this possible-

"It baffles me too."

Janet ran across the empty training field and arrived at the warehouse, wrenching the door open. She put the phone between her face and her shoulder and started grabbing weapons.

"Listen to me. Gather a team and meet me at the north gate in 5 minutes. We are coming with Alpha Daran to Fox Town. Be quick!"

"You got it!" Balvina hung up the phone.

Janet gathered enough supplies for a team of 10 and rushed back out. When she made it to the outside of the training field, she bumped right into someone coming her way.

It was Glen.

“Janet!” he gasped astonishedly, “I just came back from the bar and saw the warehouse’s light was on...What happened?!”

“The rogues attacked us. In Fox Town.” Janet said hastily.

“WHAT? How did

“I don’t have time to explain! Just tell Steven and Jeff about this. And come with us if you will!” Janet cried and rushed away.

Balvina and the team arrived at the North Gate at the same time as Janet. They each grabbed a weapon, shifted into wolves, and started heading toward Fox Town.

Janet’s heart was pounding wildly as she dashed across the dark forest with her soldiers. Her heart was filled with worries and anxiety.

A small part of her kept hoping that this wasn’t real. That rogues didn’t just sneak up to them and attack their village. And that everything was simply a mixed-up...

-Till she smelt the burning smell in the air.

“Gamma Janet! Look!” Kass gasped behind her back.

Janet didn’t need him to remind her of what was happening in the distance it was quite hard to miss.

Flames could be seen rising through the top of the forest, painting the dark sky into scarlet red. They could already hear the sound of people screaming, wolves howling and houses crashing down in fire.

The temperature kept rising as they approached. When they finally arrived, the place had already turned into a hell of heat and blazing fire.

Hard to recognize that this place used to be a small and peaceful village.

“Gamma, what do we do?” Balvina gasped.

“You take 5 people to put down the fire and rescue the injured,” Janet said urgently. “The rest come with me. Look for any signs of the rogues!”

“Yes!”

They split up.

Janet rushed down the road with her eyes searching for suspicious figures. But anywhere she looked, she saw nothing but ruins and ashes.

It was like the rogues had vanished in thin air.

“Gamma!” Kass called right behind her, “There is someone in that house!”

The roof of the house had fallen down because of the fire. And weak groans were coming out of the ruins.

Janet came to help Kass. Together they lifted the roof and pulled a man out of it. “Sir! Can you hear me?” Janet knelt down by his side and asked, “Where are the rogues? Have you seen them?”

But the man seemed traumatized. He covered his face and kept screaming in fear, “Don’t...No—Please don’t kill me—I am begging you!”

“It’s OK. You are safe now. Just tell me where the rogues are...”

“I—I don’t know! Stop torturing me! Please I am begging you!” the man wailed hysterically.

Janet sighed and said to one of his soldiers, “Take him to Balvina. Treat his wounds and keep him safe.”

The soldier nodded and carried the man away.

Janet and Kass continued their searches. One by one, they rescued nearly 20 people from the fire, but none of them could tell where exactly the rogues were.

These people were either scared as hell or injured too severely to say anything.

As frustrated as Janet was, she couldn’t blame them.

These people spent their whole lives living in a peaceful small town, which was not far away from the packhouse.

Who would have thought the rogues would attack a place like this?

A while later, Glen and his men arrived.

“Janet!” he cried running towards her, “Any sign of the rogues?”

“Not yet. These bastards vanished in thin air!” Janet snarled.

“F**k. What do we do then? Shall we draw back? The wind tonight is helping with the fire. Maybe we should focus on treating the injured first!”

Janet hesitated, clenching her fists in frustration.

She knew that Glen was probably right.

But she didn't want to give up looking for rogues just yet.

There were too many questions piling up in her mind. Like how did the rogues cross the border's lookout post? How did they pick this perfect timing? And how did they know the way so well and evacuate just in time?

There was only one answer to all these questions- Somebody was helping the rogues from the inside.

If she let this go now, she would never find out who the mole was. And they would definitely face another bigger defeat in the near future.

Making up her mind, Janet turned to Glen and said, "I am going into the woods to chase after them."

"What? No!" Glen snapped, "Don't let your anger control you. It is too dark out there and you don't have any backups! The night and the woods are both working to the rogue's advantage-"

"But here is the question! How did the rogues pick their target so well?" Janet said hastily, "The rogues had never been here before. How did they know Fox Town is a small village surrounded by dense woods with very few armed soldiers?"

Glen froze.

A horrified look appeared on his face.

"Janet, you are not saying that..."

"It is too early to make any conclusion. But I am going into the woods!" Janet snapped.

"But to which direction? The forest extends up to 20 miles on all sides. You can't finish searching the place in time!"

Janet bit her lips anxiously.

Glen was right again.

She didn't have a clue about where she should go. The rogue's scent was covered by the strong smell of fire. And their trails disguised by ashes.

Should she pick a random direction?

Let her gut lead her?

Just then, a distant howling interrupted her line of thoughts.

It was a very strange howling, different from the kind that Janet and her kind spoke, like a foreign tone.

“It was the rogues!” Glen gasped in excitement, “But what does it mean? Does anyone speak the rogue’s language?”

“To the West!” said Kass abruptly.

Kass was standing behind Janet’s back the whole time. He looked up to the other now and said in an urgent tone:

“This rogue was calling out to his fellows, asking them to meet him at the creek down the West. We should follow them now!”

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Chapter 70

Chapter 70

“A creek down the West?”

Glen asked astonishedly, “How do you know? Wait, why do you speak the rogue’s language?”

But Janet had run towards the West already with Kass and other Blood Moon’s soldiers following right behind her.

Janet was going at her full speed. The burning village quickly receded into the distance and soon disappeared into the darkness. All the noises were fading out and gradually the sound of her paws hitting against the forest floor was the only thing she could hear.

When Janet realized, she had got separated from Kass and the others.

The dense tree top blocked most of the moonlight. Janet’s surrounding was pitch black.

It was so quiet. The quietness was almost unsettling.

Janet slowed down her pace and strained her eyes, listening attentively for any strange sound.

.Her eyes caught a faint crack, like someone just stepped on a twig.

And just then, Janet saw a huge, dark figure passing through the woods and it streaked away quickly like a ghostly shadow.

Janet immediately followed up.

But that mysterious figure was gone again. Like it never existed.

In front of her eyes were nothing but rustling branches of the trees, dim moonlight, and the fog that started to roll over the hill.

She seemed to be the only living creature in this part of the forest, surrounded by eerie silence.

Janet took a deep breath.

She reached into her pocket for her compass. She needed to make sure she was going in the right direction.

Just when her figure touched the metal cover of the compass, Janet felt something fall on her neck.

It was cold and moist, like raindrops.

Was it starting to rain?

Janet touched her neck and looked up to the sky.

And then she saw it-

Squatting on the thick branches on top of her head was a huge black wolf. Its yellow eyes glinting hungrily in the darkness. Its mouth is wide open, fangs exposed.

What just fell on her neck wasn't raindrops at all.

It was blood.

Dripping down from the wolf's sharp fangs.

The wolf let out a deafening roar the moment their eyes locked.

And it dived for Janet!

Janet's body reacted before her mind did and she leaped to the side. Her gut reaction saved her. If she was a second late, the wolf's claw would cut right into her chest!

She shifted into a wolf as well. Two wolves went at each other fiercely.

This was a brutal battle, nothing like what Janet had experienced in the training field before. The rogue was so large and strong that it almost seemed like another species.

But Janet's fighting skills and her Alpha blood saved her.

Although she suffered a few deep cuts on her back, she eventually managed to trample on the rogue's neck

She breathed heavily and bent down to hiss into the rogue's ear, "Where are the others? How did you cross our border!"

Even though he was defeated, the rogue didn't seem scared at all.

He grinned widely flashing his yellow teeth. There was a crazy, thrilling look in his eyes.

"What a beauty."

He giggled, licking his teeth hungrily.

"A sweet little beauty like you should never come into the forest alone..."

Janet added more pressure to her foot, "Answer my question! Or I will break your neck now!"

The rogue's twisted crackle grew louder.

"Look around you, my sweet lamb!" the rogue roared with laughter, "Look around before you threaten me again!"

A chill was sent down Janet's spine.

And she looked up.

There were at least 15–no–20 pairs of blazing wolf eyes staring at her through the darkness, like floating yellow light bulbs.

Janet had no idea when they appeared.

Probably when they were in the middle of their fight.

One of the wolves moved forward and stepped into the moonlight. He was significantly larger than the others. There was a deep scar between his eyes, splitting his face in half.

“Let him go,” said the scar icily.

Janet stood stiffly for a few seconds before slowly lifting her paw.

She was ambushed and outnumbered.

The wise thing to do was to play along.

The scar’s eyes glinted viciously, “This is new...a she-wolf on the battlefield. What happened to your men? Did they all die?”

All the rogues snickered in the darkness.

“How does Daran like our little surprise to him?” the scar snorted, “He slaughtered so many of our brothers and sisters. I bet he didn’t see this coming, did he?”

“Coward.”

Janet spat.

“You have the guts to come this deep into our territory and burn down our village. But you don’t have the nerve to face Alpha Daran directly?”

The rogues agitated. But the scar shushed them with a howl.

“Quiet!” the scar snarled, “You can say all the pretty words you like. But we won. And we’ll keep ravaging your villages, towns, and cities...Till the whole wide world trembled beneath our feet!”

“No, you won’t!” Janet hissed, “You can kill me today. But you won’t stop the others. All the Alphas and Gammas are coming at you. And together we’ll-” “Together?”

The scar screeched, to a chorus of snide snickers.

“You don’t have as many friends as you think, naïve little girl.” The Scar laughed, “People may appear to be loyal to you on the outside, but on the inside...they belong to us.”

Janet’s heart sank.

What did this mean?

Was the Scar saying that there was a mole among them? Which exactly confirmed her theory?

“Are you the Rogue King?” Janet stared at the Scar and asked.

“Me?” the Scar giggled, “No, no, no, no...And you will never have the chance to meet with the king ever. Because your life ends—TODAY.”

The Scar flung at Janet. Janet rolled to the side, narrowly escaping his attack. But the next second, her rare left leg got caught in a wolf’s mouth. A piercing pain shoots through her body.

Janet screamed and struggled to pull her leg back but failed. The Scar opened its mouth and was about to bite down on Janet’s n*ck-

A deafening roar echoed across the forest, sending birds flying off from the tree branches. With that sound came a series of heavy, steady footsteps. It sounded like a gigantic animal was moving full speed at them.

“That voice sounds familiar...” one of the rogues cried shakily.

“Daran...!—It is Daran...” another one barked, “RUN!!!”

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Chapter 71

Chapter 71

The group of rogues ran for their lives, including the Scar. One of them still tried to take Janet with them but he got shouted at by another:

“What the f*ck are you doing! Just f**king leave her-”

He didn’t get to finish. The next second a giant black wolf leaped out from the darkness and bit down on the rogue’s neck! Its sharp fangs pierced deep into the rogue’s flesh, ending his life before he could even make a sound.

The other rogue screamed at the top of his lungs. He was so scared that he couldn't even move an inch. The giant wolf turned swiftly, charged forward, and crashed with the rogue, sending the rogue flying backward like a kite. His body hit against a tree and dropped dead.

The giant wolf bellowed deeply and shifted back to human. He rushed by Janet's side and held her wounded leg, "Christ... You are hurt!"

"Forget about me!" Janet grabbed his hand and said urgently, "You have to go after them! The Scar and the others

"Maxie is on it. Don't worry," Daran pulled off his shirt and used it as a bandage to wrap up Janet's bleeding leg. "The others can't get away... But I am not so sure about Sterning."

"Sterning? Is that the one with the scar?"

"Yeah. He is the Rogue King's most trusted man."

Daran spooned Janet off the ground and started to head back to Fox Town, "We crossed paths a few times before. He is slippery like a snake."

Janet buried her face to Daran's neck. She could smell his enticing scent, which was now mixed with a rusty smell of blood.

"...Sorry," she said with a muffled voice after a long while.

"Don't apologize," Daran said.

"You don't even know what I am apologizing for yet."

"Whatever it is. I don't need you to apologize for anything," Daran said deeply. "You have done a brilliant job already. And you don't need to be so strong and perfect at everything all the time. I am here to help you."

Janet's heart swelled.

Only Daran could give her a sense of security like no one else could.

"You could shift and carry me on your back," Janet suggested. "It's easier and faster that way."

"No. I don't want you to bump around on my back as I run. Now is fine."

Daran insisted on walking and carrying Janet in his steady arms all the way back to the Fox Town.

When they got there, a couple of people ran out from the village towards them. At the front were Kass and Balvina.

“Janet!” Balvina cried anxiously, “Where have been looking for you like crazy! Thank god you are safe!”

She wanted to take Janet from Daran’s arms. But Daran tilted his body and avoided her.

“Who went into the woods with Janet?” Daran stared at the two of them, his eyes cold.

Kass bit down his lips. There was a self-reproachful look on his face.

“...I did,” he answered with a low voice.

“Then why didn’t you stay close to your Gamma, keeping her safe?” Daran demanded sternly, “Should I remind you that this is your most important job?” Kass held his head down low, his body shaking slightly. Janet could tell that he blamed himself deeply.

“That’s enough,” Janet sighed. “Kass didn’t mean it either. Stop giving him a hard time.”

Daran let out a snort and walked past Balvina and Kass.

The fire had already been put down. Soldiers were busy rescuing people and treating their wounds. Steven and Jeff had arrived as well. They stood outside of the only intact house in this village, talking to Maxie and Glen anxiously.

Jeff cried out first when he saw Daran and Janet, “They are back! Alpha Daran, what the hell is going on here? I heard that the rogues attacked?!”

Daran nodded, “Yes. Let’s move inside. We need to talk.”

The 6 of them stepped into the house and closed the door.

Janet spoke up first. And she cut right into the chase:

“There is a mole among us.”

Steven’s mouth dropped open. He looked panic-stricken, “What the f**k are you talking about?”

“The timing is suspicious. They attacked us first right before we sent out our advance force. And they chose the perfect target, Fox Town, which is geologically easy for them to attack and retreat, and it doesn’t have many armed soldiers. They can’t have this much information without somebody on the inside.”

“Even so, you still can’t jump to the conclusion that we have a mole,” Jeff frowned.
“Those are my conjectures,” Janet said. “But the rogues also confirmed my theory.”
“They what?!”

“I encountered a rogue’s leader. His name is Sterning I think. He said and I quote, ‘People may appear to be loyal to you on the outside, but on the inside, they belong to us.’”

The room lapsed into a ringing silence. There was a mixed look of doubt and fear on everyone’s face.

After a long pause, Steven looked around the room and said, “So this is what we do now? Pointing fingers at each other? We should be discussing our next move! Instead of wasting our time on somebody’s conspiracy theory!”

Janet’s face turned dark, “You are saying that I made it up?”

“Well, no one saw you talking to the rogue, didn’t it!” Steven countered fiercely, “And your conjectures sound groundless as well! I don’t want to doubt my alliance before the war even started!”

“We won’t be able to move forward if we don’t dig out this mole first!” Janet snapped, “Every plan we make, every step we take... The rogues will know it. And

they will act before we do. It is stupid to fight a war that is destined to lose at the very beginning!”

Glen scratched his head and sighed, “Gamma Janet has a point...Calm down, Steven Let’s hear her out.”

But Steven still looked furious. He jumped out his fist and snapped, “Hear her out? Do you get what she is saying right Glen? She is trying to say that the mole is among the 6 of us...Right here in this room!”

Glen widened his eyes. Jeff moved uneasily in his seat. And the furrow between Maxie’s brows grew deeper.

“Among the 6 of us?” Maxie murmured in disbelief.

“You heard Gamma Janet. She said that the rogues knew about the advance force.” Steven sneered, “We hadn’t announced it to the soldiers yet. Only the 6 of us know about the plan. So if somebody leaked it, it has got to be us.

Janet said nothing. Her face was deadpan and serious.

But her silence confirmed Steven’s words.

Jeff looked around the room blankly. He was clearly struggling internally.

“B–But...who could it be?” he stammered, “Every one of us has been in this alliance since the very beginning. I—It is striking to think any of us might....No. Can’t. I can’t go down that path!”

To think that their enemy had been hiding among them all along, training with them, dining with them, going to every meeting with them...

It was horrible. And frightening!

“So who do you suspect? Huh?” Steven asked Janet with a withering look, “You can’t throw out a question like that and let it hang in the air.”

Janet clenched the arm of her chair in silence.

She slowly shook her head, “Honestly...I don’t know. Everyone is possible.”

Steven rolled his eyes, “Even you, right? Didn’t you get abducted by rogues a year ago? Maybe they turned you at that time-”

“Gamma Steven!”

Maxie snapped. Her eyes glinted fiercely.

“You are crossing a line!” she hissed.

Steven locked eyes with her for a few seconds and turned away first. He slumped down into his seat and rubbed his hair frustratedly.

A heavy silence fell on them again.

||

‘...so now what?’ Jeff let out a bitter laugh, “Are we going to sit here and play the game ‘Guess Who’?”

No one laughed at his joke. People were all deep in their own thoughts.

Just then, Glen, who had stayed in silence for a long time, slowly looked up at Janet with a struggling look.

“I actually have a question for you, Janet,” said him reluctantly.

“Yes?”

“Your guard, Kass...Why does he speak the rogue’s language?”

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Chapter 72

Chapter 72

Everyone in the room turned to look at Janet, who frowned at Glen’s question.

“Rogue’s language? What are you talking about?” she asked.

Glen looked reluctant. After letting out a long sigh, he continued, “I didn’t want to say anything at first but since we are naming names now... Remember that strange howling we heard? None of us knew what that meant. But your guard Kass understood it completely.”

“So? He helped us. What is your point?” Janet snapped.

“It is odd for a soldier like him to know the rogue’s language. And you encountered the rogues following Kass’s instructions, right? To a creek down the West. How do you know if he was lured into a trap on purpose?”

“Yeah, that does sound weird,” Jeff echoed. “And didn’t you say that you got separated from Kass right after you went into the woods? He was sending you into the rogue’s hands!”

Janet sprang out of her seat, her face looking furious.

“Kass is my most trusted warrior. I won’t let you question his loyalty like this-” she hissed.

Steven let out a sarcastic snort, “Oh so now we can’t do it to your soldier? But it is OK to question other people’s loyalty? Way to play the double standard, Gamma Janet.”

Daran looked towards Janet.

“Did you tell Kass about our plan, Janet?” he asked with a deep voice.

Janet clenched her fists. She seemed reluctant but eventually gave a small nod, "...I told both him and Balvina. Because they are both captains of our advance force."

"Well, there you have it!" Steven clapped his hands together, "The mole! We found him!"

"Hold on a second," Maxie interrupted him, "Kass is a great warrior. And he has been in battles against the rogues many times before. It doesn't make any sense for him to leak our battle plans to the rogues. What can he get out of it?"

"What is the back story of this soldier, Janet? Where does he come from? Does he have any families?" Glen asked.

Janet bit her lips in silence

She seemed that she didn't want to answer his questions at all. But the other's were too sharp. She was left with no choice.

gazes

"Kass grew up by the border."

She began slowly.

"There was a brutal battle against the rogues...He came to us after the battle and volunteered to serve in our army because he had lost his entire family in the war. He

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didn't have anywhere else to go."

"So that's what he told you," Jeff chimed in and said, "Did you do a background check on him? See if he is really a member of your pack?"

He stared at Janet waiting for her answer.

"We tried."

Janet said with a strained voice.

"But he lived in the forest alone with his parents. His house was burnt to the ground during the war. True...there isn't any hard evidence to back his story. But he was only 12 years old at the time! Do you seriously think the rogues would send a kid to spy on us?!"

“It is possible! That age is old enough to hold a gun. And it didn’t raise any suspicions!” Jeff cried loudly.

“So it all adds up! Doesn’t it!” Steven banged the desk hard, “Kass is a rogue the entire time. He hid among us for years, working his way up and stole information from us and leaked it to the rogues. I can’t believe this! You brought enemies into this alliance, Janet!”

Janet felt a cold chill down her spine.

At this very moment, even she started to question it.

...Could Kass be the mole?

But then she remembered all the times they spent together, all the laughs they shared. She also remembered all the tears in Kass’s eyes when he talked about his parents, who got killed by the rogues. The hatred and longing for vengeance didn’t seem made up.

She didn’t believe that Kass would betray her.

Not in a million years.

Taking in a deep breath, Janet looked around the room and said, “Kass grew up by the border and it is natural for him to know the rogue’s language. He had been nothing but a loyal soldier so far. Until any hard evidence came up...He still has my trust.”

Steven let out an angry low roar.

Maxie and Glen both frowned with disapproval.

Jeff looked between two sides, and he seemed torn, “Now we are back to square one again. Alpha Daran, you have said a word. Any thoughts?”

Daran rose from his seat.

With everyone staring, he walked to the door and called over a Riverside soldier, asking him to find Kass.

“We should hear what Kass has to say,” said him deeply.

Moments later, Kass was brought into the room.

“You requested to see me?” he asked blankly. “Did anything happen?”

“Listen...”

Maxie briefly concluded what they had been discussing and asked Kass with a soft voice, "Don't worry, Kass. We won't accuse you of anything you didn't do. But you have to be honest with us...Did you, or did you not, leak our battle plan to the rogues?"

"NO!" Kass cried loudly, his eyes widened with shock.

"I—I can't believe this... You think I am working for the rogues?" he snarled, "The rogues killed my parents! They cut open my mother's belly and let her bleed to death! I hate them! ALL OF THEM!!"

"But you spoke the rogue's language," Glen asked. "How do you explain that?" "I grew up by the border. It's natural—"

"Many people grew up by the border and they don't speak the rogue's tone," Maxie shook her head.

"I—We lived in the forest. So I met the rogues more often than the others did-

"Oh, what an easy story!" Steven cried loudly, "Alpha Daran, I am telling you, this kid is guilty! We should execute him right now and send his head to the rogues as a message!"

Kass's body trembled.

He looked at Janet, his eyes gleaming with tears.

"G—Gamma Janet... You believe in me, don't you?" he said with a shaky voice. "You know me the best...Please say something..."

The painful look on his face made Janet's heart ache. She walked to his side and took his icy cold hand into her palm.

"Yeah. I trust you," she said lightly.

"Unbelievable!" Steven roared.

Janet stood in front of Kass and turned to face the others. There was a determined look on her face.

"Kass is a victim of the rogues, just like me. I believe in him. Until we have any hard evidence at hand, I won't let anyone touch him."

"But the mole—"

"I am with Janet," Maxie sighed. "We shouldn't wrong the good. Or what is the difference between us and the rogues? I guess we will just have to keep looking for any signs of that mole."

Jeff and Glen didn't say anything. Steven roared angrily and knocked over a chair with one kick.

"Janet, take Kass to have some rest. You both have been exhausted," Daran said calmly. "Don't lose track of him again."

Daran was asking her to keep a close eye on Kass.

Janet nodded and led Kass out of the room holding his hand. When they were outside of the house, she could still hear Steven's furious voice questioning Daran's decision.

Janet and Kass walked down the empty street. They didn't stop until they reached the edge of Fox Town.

Tears had streamed down Kass's face when Janet turned around to look at him. There was a clear biting mark on his lower lip. Apparently, he had been biting his lips hard to stifle his sobs.

Janet sighed. She reached out and wiped his tears away using her thumb.

"I didn't see you cry this hard when I asked you to do 1000 push-ups." she tried to lighten the mood with a joke.

"...I caused you a lot of trouble, didn't I?" Kass chocked.

"It wasn't your fault," Janet said. "As long as you are completely honest with me, I will forever stand by your side to defend you. No one will ever harm you again. Trust me."

Kass quivered slightly.

There was a clear sign of struggle in his eyes. After a long pause, he whispered, "...So you believe in me no matter what?"

"Yeah," Janet smiled.

Kass was like the little brother she never had. She trusted him with her full heart. "Then I should probably let you know about something...About my identity." Kass murmured, his voice filled with panic and dread.

“What?” Janet asked.

And what he said to her next rocked her whole world upside down.

“I am not what you think I am...” he said shakily, “I am indeed...A rogue.”

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Chapter 73

Chapter 73

Janet looked at him blankly. It took her a long moment to process what he just said.

After what felt like an eternity to Kass, Janet finally muttered with a dry voice, “...This joke isn’t funny, Kass.”

“I wish it were a joke. But it wasn’t,” Kass said breathing heavily. “I—I can’t keep this from you any longer, knowing that you trust me this much... You deserve to know-”

“But you said your parents died in the rogue’s hand!” Janet snapped harshly, “Was that a lie as well?!”

“NO! That’s true! Listen...”

Kass took a deep breath before continuing. He kept his voice low the whole time in case anyone would hear them.

“I grew up among the rogues. But my family never identified us with those ravagers. We never hurt an innocent person’s life, nor did we ever take pleasure from all the killings and robbing. So they looked down upon us, bullied us, and made our lives miserable. One day, a senior rogue named Sterning-”

“You know Sterning?” Janet gritted.

“Yes. He is the rogue king’s right hand. Does all kinds of dirty work for him.” Kass said lowly, “Sterning came into our house and asked my parents to join them in the next attack on a nearby village. My parents resisted fiercely...So they cut my mother’s belly open and hung my father on a flagpole as an example.”

A cold sensation surged up in Janet's chest.

"...Where were you when that happened?" she asked.

"Hiding in the closet. As my mother told me to. I witnessed the whole thing...but was lucky enough to survive them. And after that, I couldn't take it anymore. I knew I had to run...as far away as possible. Blood Moon defeated them during that attack, so

I knew it was my chance-"

"So you pretended to be an orphan and enlisted in the army," Janet murmured.

She couldn't believe this.

She was so convinced that Kass was one hundred percent innocent! She defended him harshly in front of all the Gammas.

Yet now he was telling her that he had been lying to her all along?!

"...So that's why you know the rogue's tone," she snarled as her chest tightened in the horrible feeling of betrayal. "Because you are one of them all along-

"NO! I am not! I might have lied about my identity but my hatred towards them is real-"

"But how do you expect me to believe you again?!"

Janet snapped her head up and glared at Kass.

"You lied right into my face. To everyone! Why didn't you tell the truth when Daran and the others asked about it earlier?"

'Because I knew if I told them, they would send me away!'"

Kass grabbed Janet's wrist and begged with a trembling voice, "Please, Janet...I am not scared of dying. I am just afraid that...I will be separated...from you."

Janet looked away from him.

Her chest rose and fell rapidly in anger.

"So what do you want me to do then?" she asked gritting her teeth, "Do you want me to hide this from everyone else while still keeping you in this army?"

"I just want to stay by your side."

“But how do I know if everything you just told me is another lie of yours? How can I ever trust you again with any battle plans? How can I trust you to lead my soldiers?!”

“But you just said it yourself” Kass cried, raising his voice, “–that you will trust me no matter what!”

“That is before you told me that you are my biggest nemesis!” Janet bellowed.

They glared at each other, both panting roughly.

Kass took a step back. The next second, he shifted into a brown wolf.

Janet watched him stiffly.

What was he doing? she asked herself internally. *Did he get mad and want to bite her head off?*

Janet was sad to realize that she couldn’t stop thinking about the worst of Kass right now.

Yet instead of attacking her, the brown wolf lay down on the ground and rolled around, exposing its belly area to Janet.

“See that thunder–shaped mark?” he asked.

There was indeed a thunder–shaped imprint on his upper belly region, which looked like a brand left by a hot iron. It burned so deeply into his flesh that it was still there even after years.

“All rogue’s kids got one of those on the day of their birth,” Kass said lowly. “There were times when I wanted to grab a knife and gouge it out...I can’t choose who I am or where I came from. But does my identity matter more than my own will?”

Janet stared at his ugly–shaped brand.

Her chest contracted with the cold feeling of sadness and despair.

Then, without saying anything else to Kass, she turned on her heel and walked away. The daylight broke from the horizon, calling the dark forest back to life. Daran left a group of soldiers at Fox Town helping the people there to clear up the mess. The rest of them all headed back to the packhouse.

The group was exceptionally quiet on the way back.

Janet knew that everyone was thinking about the mole. Suspicion and doubt were spreading like a plague and there was nothing she could do to stop it.

Plus, she was carrying a dark secret with her, which could potentially get all of them killed in the future.

When they arrived back at the packhouse, Daran asked them to catch a rest. Janet did as he said and went back to her own room.

But she couldn't sleep.

Kass's identity was like a clog in her throat, making it hard for her to breathe.

Should she break it to the others?

If she did that, Kass would definitely be executed. Even worse, Casper and the entire Blood Moon Pack would be in trouble because they took in a rogue...

But if she kept the secret, what if the mole acted again?

Could she be sure that Kass was not the mole?

These questions weighed on Janet's heart as she tossed and turned through the night. When she finally woke up the next morning, feeling worn out and exhausted, she got a message from Daran asking her to meet them in his office.

All 5 Gammas were in the room when Janet arrived.

Steven was clearly still holding the grudge from yesterday. He snorted coldly when Janet entered the room and snapped his head towards the other side.

Maxie pulled out a chair and gestured for Janet to sit with her.

11

An urgent message came in last night."

Daran laid out a map on his desk and said, "As it turns out, the sign of rogues moving towards Greenwald Village was only a fake out. They sent a small group to Greenwald to distract us. But their main force was actually heading towards Crimson Fortress. And based on the information we received last night, Crimson Fortress has been compromised."

Gasps filled with disbelief and frustration could be heard in the room.

The war hadn't even started yet and the rogues had won two rounds in a row.

"This can't wait," Daran said darkly. "We should dispatch troops today."

Gammas looked at each other in silence.

"But what about the mole?" Jeff asked, "How can we go to war knowing that there is a mole among us? We should find that person first!"

"They have taken Crimson Fortress. We don't have time to dig the mole out!" Maxie said.

"So we hurried off to the battlefield and put everyone's life at risk? Listen to yourself!"

Another quarrel was about to break out. Jeff had stood up from his chair glaring at Maxie, as Steven looked out the window with a cold sneer on his lips.

Just then, a knock came from the door.

"Come in," Daran raised his voice.

The door opened up and an armless woman stepped inside.

It was Angelina.

"Who is she?" Jeff leered at her

"Meet Angelina," Daran said. "She had spent some time with the rogues. Her experience could be helpful."

Steven jeered loudly, "Inviting another suspicious person into our group? Really? Like we don't have enough troubles already?"

Angelina's eyes scanned the room. Her face was somber.

"I see that you are already fighting among yourselves," she said. "And this is exactly what the Rogue King wants."

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Chapter 74

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The room lapsed into silence again hearing about Angelina's words.

What she was saying about the Rogue King got everyone intrigued.

"You know the Rogue King personally?" Glen asked. "What is the Rogue King like? We know so little about this person that we aren't even sure about the person's gender."

"And neither do I. Rogue King is quite a mysterious person. Like the God to rogues, everyone had heard about the name, but none had seen the guy in person. I think the

Rogue King did this on purpose. The aura of mystery and intrigue reinforces its supremacy."

Angelina walked over and sat down by Janet's side.

"Tell us more," Maxie demanded eagerly. "What else do you know about this guy?"

"All I heard are rumors. The Rogue King wasn't born to be a ruler. Unlike us, the rogues don't have a clear system of inheritance—"

"But we don't either," Jeff frowned. "We only chose to follow our Alphas because they are strong and capable."

"Yet they had their Alpha bloodline, which gives them the Alpha aura. That's why in our society, the Alpha family's offspring are destined to be the strongest ones.

Janet nodded approvingly.

Before she was claimed back to Blood Moon Pack, she too was a weak girl who had nothing to fight back against her bullies. Her Alpha aura was awakened once she claimed her last name back and that gave her strength and power.

Of course, her becoming the Gamma had a lot to do with her tough training. But she couldn't have done it without her aura.

Steven clicked his tongue impatiently, "So now you are giving us a history of Werewolf inheritance? How is this related to the Rogue King?"

"I am just getting to my point," Angelina said. "Rogues are mostly commoners, including the Rogue King himself. Most of them don't have a strong physique and trained fighting

skills like we do. And that guy didn't become the King because he is a great warrior or anything...He depends on his mind."

"You meant that he is smart?" Steven asked.

"More than smart, the Rogue King is cunning, manipulative, and witty. There once were two groups of rogues who weren't happy with his reign. Instead of attacking them both, the King managed to turn them against each other and let them take care of themselves. Don't you see the issue here? He is doing the same to you guys!"

An awkward silence fell upon the room.

Steven moved uneasily in his seat. He opened his mouth wanting to challenge Angelina back, but no words came out.

"Planting a mole among us is no big deal. Sooner or later, we will dig the mole out. But he has gotten you to distrust your fellow soldiers, and that is the scariest part." Angelina said with a stern voice, "The rogues are not as trained as we do. But we must watch out for their dirty schemes."

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Maxie, Janet, and Glen all nodded with approval. Yet Steven still seemed unconvinced.

"That was a lot of pretty words you said, but how does that help with our current situation?" he snorted. "We are about to discuss our next move. Should we exclude anyone from this discussion? If we should, who do we exclude?"

Angelina said, "We can learn from the Rogue's wit. Choose a leader from this alliance and follow his or her orders with no questions asked. And the leader only shares parts of the battle plan with the subordinates. This way we can keep the mole from knowing too much."

The Gammas looked at one another.

"That is actually not a bad idea," Jeff shrugged. "I guess we do need a leader sooner or later. And I vote for Alpha Daran. Riverside Pack was the first to propose this alliance. And I am willing to follow his command."

"Me too," Glen said. "He has the experience."

"And ability," Maxie added.

Janet looked towards Daran with a smile. Her eyes gleamed brightly, "I trust him with my full heart."

Daran looked back at her, his gaze soft.

“Alright, you love birds!” Jeff cried and turned towards Steven, “That leaves you to vote man. Are you with us or not?”

“I don’t see what other choices I have. It’s 4 against 1 no matter what,” said Steven grumpily.

“Alright! It settles then,” Jeff clapped his hands together. “Alpha Daran is officially our new leader.”

“But what about the pack business? Can you leave Riverside for that long?” Janet asked.

Daran nodded, “The elders can manage. They can shoot me a message whenever something urgent comes up...Now. Let’s get back to our next move.”

He tapped his finger on the map.

“Tomorrow at dawn we will leave for Crimson Fortress. We don’t have much time. So get your soldiers ready,” he said.

“What about the mole?” Steven asked.

“I’ll figure out a plan,” Daran replied with a deadpan face.

“What plan? Don’t tell me you are just going to leave it—”

“You have just agreed to take my orders with no questions asked. And it is how this ruse works,” Daran said icily. “Don’t make me repeat myself again and again.”

Steven’s jaw tightens. He quivered away from Daran’s gaze.

“The meeting is dismissed,” Daran said.

All Gammas stood up and filed out through the door. Janet was behind Angelina. When they came out to the hallway, she was stunned to find a woman sitting on the

bench outside

It was Harper.

Harper seemed even more worn out than the last time Janet saw her. She was nibbling her nails and murmuring something hysterically. Janet vaguely caught a few words like “Luna” “bitch” and “go to hell.”

“Do you take her with you everywhere?” Janet asked Angelina.

“I kinda have to. She needs a guardian. Or the minute I am gone,

she snaps,” Angelina frowned, “Truth be told, I am not sure if she is faking it to let my guard down. So I have to keep a close eye on her.”

Then she looked towards Maxie by Janet’s side, “Gamma Maxie, I have a request. I am thinking about going to the battlefield with you. My past experience with the rogues might be helpful.”

“Umm, yeah. But your situation is a bit tricky...” Maxie replied reluctantly.

“I have the smith crafted a pair of artificial hands for me. So don’t worry. I can keep myself safe.”

Maxie looked to Janet asking for her advice. Janet thought for a moment and nodded, “I don’t see why. We need as much help as we can find. Just remember to watch out for Harper if you are bringing her.”

“No problem. Thank you for this opportunity. I promise to be useful,” Angelina smiled.

Angelina walked to Harper and got her out of the bench. Harper was giggling like a lunatic, drooling all over the place. It seemed that she had really lost her sanity. Maxie looked at Angelina and Harper’s back and let out a long sigh, “Don’t know why...but I just have a really bad feeling about this upcoming war. With the Rogue King and the mole...Who do you think the mole can be?”

“Could be anyone,” Janet shook her head.

“I just kept wondering in my head,” Maxie looked around them and lowered her voice. “Hey, does Steven look suspicious to you? He seemed really jumpy since yesterday.”

Janet bit her lips and said nothing.

Angelina told them to forget about their doubts and work together.

But could they really do it?

Suspicion is a part of human nature. Even though they all shook hands on Daran being the leader, who knew what everyone had been thinking internally?

Till the mole was dug out, this alliance would still be at stake.

Plus, Janet had her dark secret with her...About Kass and his rogue identity.

It was like an active bomb that could blow up at any second.

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Chapter 75

Chapter 75

The next morning at dawn, all the troops departed from the packhouse and left for Crimson Fortress.

The Fortress was about 800 miles far from the packhouse, which would take them roughly 2 days on the road.

As they headed towards the north, the weather started to get colder, and the daylight shortened. The wind that gushed through the woods turned from soothing to icy and bitter. Tresses in the northern region were more sparse and stunted. One time when Janet looked up to the sky, she was astonished to find that there was frosting on the tree branches.

The terrible weather was not the only thing they had to face along the way. They also encountered many refugees from the North.

Many of these refugees were once residents of the Crimson Fortress. But they took their houses and chased them out. Now they had nowhere else to go.

rogues

“It was brutal,” said one refugee to Daran. “They ravaged our city, set our houses on fire, and killed many people. Some of us tried to fight back but the rogues captured them, peeled their clothes off, and let them freeze to death. They said that they wanted to make more of these ‘human popsicles’...We are just lucky enough to get out of that living hell.”

There was a look of grief and anger on everyone’s face when they heard it.

And Daran asked, "The Crimson Fortress is guarded by a large group of soldiers. Why didn't they protect you?"

The refugee let out a bitter laugh, "The rogues mingled with residents like us and got passed by the guards easily. Then they started an attack at midnight from within the city. Who would have thought? They looked just like us. There was no way to identify a rogue from the citizens."

Janet's face grew dark.

Angelina was right. These rogues were cunning as hell. They might not be as trained as they were, but they were definitely good at pulling dirty schemes.

Daran went to talk to his captains. He was thinking about having a group of soldiers from the main force escorting these refugees back to the packhouse. He also needed to contact the elders and ask them to help these people get back on their feet.

The day was getting dark. So they decided to camp out in the woods for tonight while

Daran took care of those refugees.

After talking to some of the refugees, Janet returned to their camp with a heavy heart.

On her way back, she found Kass leaning against a tree outside of a tent. He seemed to be waiting for her.

"I heard what those people said about the rogues. About how brutal they were," Kass spoke up first, his voice light.

Janet stayed in silence.

This was the first time they spoke to one another after that big fight.

"What happened to them used to be my daily life."

There was a deep grief in Kass's brown eyes.

"So are you still questioning my loyalty?" he asked.

Janet sighed and tried to walk past Kass. But he grabbed her hand and stopped her forcefully.

"So are you going to keep ignoring me like this?" Kass hissed, "I told you my secret because I trusted you! If I want, I can still keep you in the dark as I have done in the past! Would you have preferred that?!"

Janet shook him off and glared back, "What you should do is tell me the truth the minute you joined our army! Not wait till you become the captain and I defend you in front of all other Gammas!"

"If I told you in the beginning, would you still trust me the same? I know you wouldn't! We all see how discriminated you are when it comes to the rogues-"

"Discriminated? Don't you think there is a reason for that? You see how ruthless and evil those savages are!"

"But I am not like-"

Their quarrels were interrupted abruptly by a voice from the back, "Hey are you guys fighting over something?"

Janet and Kass jerked around at the same time. They found Glen standing a few steps away from them while looking at them suspiciously.

"I heard arguments," Glen narrowed his eyes. "Did something happen?"

Kass's face was stiff. Janet answered on his behalf, "Nothing. We were just talking about the plan for tomorrow. Kass had some questions."

A flicker of doubt appeared in Glen's eyes. But eventually, he chose to say nothing. "Other Gammas and I are cooking dinner," Glen smiled. "You want to join us?"

Janet nodded, "Sure. You head out first. I'll come over in just a second."

Glen waved his hands and disappeared behind the tent.

"Listen," Janet turned back to Kass and whispered, "I can't keep this thing any longer. Tomorrow, I will tell Daran. He will decide what happens to you."

Kass widened his eyes in shock, "He will rip my throat apart within a blink of an eye! And you are OK with that?!"

"I won't let him kill you. But as the leader, he deserves to know!" Janet snapped. "No. Please don't do this to me-

But Janet didn't let him finish and walked away hastily. She knew if she stayed any longer, she would turn soft again.

Janet found the other 4 Gammas sitting around a campfire. They were having some cookies and canned beans in silence.

“God, these cookies are so dry. I think it is hurting my tongue!” Jeff complained gloomily as Janet sat down by Maxie’s side.

“You have never had a field ration before?” Glen asked.

“Of course I have. But our food packet had sausages, dried fruits, and instant coffee in it. These are complete garbage,” Jeff made a puking face. “Don’t tell me you are seriously enjoying this, Glen.”

Glen shrugged and took another bite at his cookie, “I don’t mind it. Silver Claw is always short on food supplies. Our field ration is way worse than this.”

Janet took a sip from her can. Jeff was right. It tasted like overnight water with dirty rags soaked in it.

But like Glen, she didn’t mind it either. When she was living under the Diaz’s roof, she had to feed on leftovers and those tasted just as bad.

“So Janet,” Steven spoke up abruptly. “Glen told us that you were arguing with that soldier of yours, Kass. Did something happen?”

Janet looked up. Steven was staring at her across the campfire, his eyes narrowed into slits.

“Nothing,” Janet replied briefly.

“You sure?” Steven asked coldly, “You know that we are not supposed to give them more information than they need to know, right? Especially since Kass is our number one suspect right now.”

Janet set the can on the ground, “I don’t need you to lecture me on how to communicate with my soldiers.”

Steven’s face turned cold. They glared at each other across the campfire. The atmosphere gradually tensed up.

“Hey,” Maxie tugged at Janet’s sleeve. “You want to take the food back to our tents?”

Janet grabbed the canned beans and cookies and stood up from the ground. She walked away in fume. Maxie quickly caught up with her from behind.

“Don’t mind Steven. He is just being grumpy as always. Before you came, he couldn’t shut his mouth about how bad the weather was. What a baby,” Maxie whispered into her ears. “If you ask me, he is the suspicious one.”

Janet sighed and rubbed her temples.

The bad weather had a bad impact on their spirit. And the suspicion that was spreading made it worse.

“I appreciate it, Maxie,” Janet said exhaustedly. “Actually I had lost all my appetite. Probably just want to go back and lie down.”

“Yeah, sure. Go have some rest. Everything will be fine soon,” Maxie patted her shoulder.

Janet went back into her tent and lay down in the darkness. She was worn out so the sleep found her quickly.

Yet she didn’t sleep too soundly. Bad dreams came at her one after another.

She vaguely heard some strange noises in her sleep. And that made her to snap her eyes open.

It was still pitch black in her tent.

And there was a dark shadow standing by her bedside.

Without a second thought, Janet grabbed the flashlight she kept on the table and turned it on.

The strong light lit up the tent, along with the person standing in front of her. It was Kass.

There was a horror–struck look on his face.

And a knife in his hand.

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Chapter 76

Chapter 76

They locked eyes for a few seconds and Janet reacted first. She jumped at him, kicked off his knife, and tackled him to the ground. Kass let out a painful gasp as Janet twisted his arm to his back.

“Janet! It’s me!” Kass cried.

“I know it’s you!” Janet hissed, “What are you doing by my bedside with a knife!”

Kass stared back at Janet with shocked eyes, “W–What are you talking about? It’s your knife! You always keep a knife under your pillow while sleeping. Remember?”

Janet glanced at the knife that had dropped to the ground.

Kass was right. It was indeed her knife. It was an old habit of her to keep a weapon nearby when she was asleep.

“OK. But what were you doing with it? And what were you even in my tent?” Janet snapped.

Kass’s body shivered.

At first, Janet thought he was shaking in fear, but then she discovered that it was because of shock and anger.

“Are you suspecting me?!” Kass snarled with a hurtful voice, “You think I was–was trying to do something to you with that knife? Are you f**king crazy Janet? Doubting

me like that? Do you have any idea how ridiculous that is?!”

He sounded generously mad.

Janet loosened her grip slightly but still kept him kneeling on the ground, “Then why did you come into my tent?”

“I was taking my switch off the night watch! I passed by your tent and wanted to check on you. I saw you asleep and that dagger was only an inch away from your face. I was afraid that it might cut you in your sleep, so I took it and wanted to put it somewhere else!”

Janet froze on her spot for a few seconds and finally released Kass.

Yet Kass didn’t stand up from the ground. He looked up at her with a deeply traumatized look.

“I can’t believe you actually thought I would kill you…” he murmured in astonishment.

Janet didn't feel so good about this either, "Sorry. I—I have been edgy for too long and I overreacted. I thought you were going to do something after I decided to tell Daran about your identity..."

She met with Kass's sad eyes and stopped talking.

"Th—This is absurd. Before I told you my secret, you would trust me with your back on the battlefield. Yet now you can't even stand me standing by your bedside..." Kass choked, "Is your trust completely gone? Is there nothing I can do now?"

Janet let out a long sigh.

Her heart wanted to believe in Kass, yet her mind urged her to do the opposite. She was not simply Janet Manning. She was also the Gamma of the Blood Moon Pack,

responsible for thousands of soldiers' lives

responsible for thousands of soldiers' lives.

If she trusted the wrong person, she couldn't bear the consequences.

"I am fine, and you saw it already, Kass. Now go back to your night watch," she said exhaustedly.

Yet Kass didn't listen to her this time.

He grabbed the knife on the floor hastily. Instead of pointing it at her, he directed it at his belly region.

"None of these would happen if I weren't a rogue right?" he hissed, clenching the knife, "Do you want me to gouge out the brand they left with me? Will that make you trust me again?"

"Drop the knife!" Janet bellowed.

Yet he cut himself with that knife instead. His shirt soon became red with blood.

"I didn't want to lie to you. But I hate it more when you look at me with those doubtful eyes," he choked. "Maybe it was a mistake coming to the Blood Moon Pack. Maybe I should let the rogues kill me years ago.."

Janet felt her chest contract with grief. Her vision became blurred with tears.

Just then, a series of footsteps came from outside the tent. Before any of them could react, a tall figure burst into the tent hastily.

It was Daran..

“What the hell happened!” he growled, his eyes scanning the room.

With the blood and the knife, it sure looked like a crime scene.

“We were just talking-” Janet said weakly.

“Talking with Blade?” Daran walked up to Janet with one step and examined her face closely, “Are you hurt?”

Janet shook her head. She looked towards Kass and sighed, “Go back to your shift.” Kass stood stiffly on his spot, staring at them with gloomy eyes. Blood was still dripping down from his fingertips.

Janet took out a roll of bandage from her back and placed it in Kass’s pocket, “Go wrap yourself up.”

He still didn’t move.

“Leave us. Now,” Daran spoke up eventually. His voice was deep with majesty, making Kass quiver and caving into his Alpha aura.

Dropping the knife, Kass turned and left the tent holding his head down.

“So,” Daran turned to Janet with his gaze turning soft, “You want to tell me what happened?”

“Can we not do it here?” Janet said with a muffled voice. The tent smelt like Kass’s blood, which was making her feel blue.

“Come with me.”

Daran took her hand and led her out of the tent.

They crossed the camping area, made it through the dark forest, and eventually arrived at a small hill.

The night breeze was cool and gentle up there. And without the blocking of tree branches, they got to see the silver moon hanging in the sky.

“Wow,” Janet let out a gasp of amazement.

Daran stood by her side and looked up to the sky with her, “I have always wanted to do this with you...Bathed under the silver moonlight on a peaceful night with

nothing but the sound of birds and wind around us.”

Janet felt her heart swell and she smiled, “Too bad we are not back at the packhouse.”

They stood there quietly for a long time, taking in this beautiful scenery in silence.

And Janet spoke up eventually, “There is something about Kass I haven’t told you.”

“What about him?” Daran asked.

Taking in a deep breath, Janet told him the secret about Kass, “I know I might be acting naïve here but I really do trust him. I don’t think he is the mole.”

Daran stayed in silence for a while and said slowly, “Well, me neither.”

“Not even after you know that he is a rogue?” Janet asked in disbelief.

She thought Daran would react much stronger towards this.

“No. I don’t think he is capable of harming you,” Daran glanced at Janet. “He cares about you maybe a little too much.”

Janet let out a long sigh of relief.

Having Daran here to back her up really eased off her stress.

“Then who is it then? The mole?” Janet rubbed her hair frustratedly, “I can’t believe we are starting this internal fight even before the actual war breaks out. That Rogue King really does have a few cards up in his sleeves. Frankly, I can’t trust anyone right now but you.”

Daran gazed into the distance. After a long pause, he said slowly, “I have a guess about the mole.”

“What?” Janet gasped looking up at him.

Daran was a steady person. When he said that he had a “guess,” good chances were he was already 90% sure of this.

“Well, who is it?” Janet demanded eagerly.

Daran lowered his upper body and whispered a name into Janet’s ear.

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Chapter 77

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His voice was low and only the two of them heard what he said.

Shock flickered across Janet's once she heard it, "Seriously? I didn't for a single second. Do you have any proof?"

suspect that guy

"No. Which is why we want him to get sloppy and give himself away."

"But how are we going to do that? He has the upper hand now. It will be quite some time before he gets himself exposed."

"I have a plan. And I need your help with it," said Daran.

He leaned to Janet and whispered his plans into Janet's ear.

"Well, it's a brilliant idea." Janet smiled after hearing him out, "But is it OK if you spilled everything to me? What if I am also working with the mole?"

She meant that as a joke.

But Daran stared at her with a deadpan face, "So are you?"

His stern attitude made her panic again, "No! Of course not! I was just kidding. Sorry, it's probably not that appropriate."

Only then did a grin appear on his lips.

"Relax. I was fooling with you too," he pushed the hair out of her face and stared deeply into her eyes. "You have my unconditional trust, Janet."

A gentle feeling filled her heart.

Janet took a step forward and buried her face into Daran's chest, wrapping her arms around his waist.

The anxiety that had been clouding her for days finally cleared out at this moment.

The next day, they continued marching up North and finally arrived at Crimson Fortress in the afternoon.

Daran ordered to have their campsite built at an opening 5 miles away from the fort. While soldiers working on that, he and the Gammas climbed up to a high ground trying to get a better view of the fort.

A blizzard broke in around this time. The wind was gusting, and the snow was so heavy that it was almost impossible to gaze into the distance.

Glen had a telescope in his hand. He looked for a long time and finally gave up,

“No.

I can't. Wherever I see, it's a pitch white. I can't even see the rampart.”

“Let me have a try,” Janet said.

Glen handed her the telescope and Janet pointed in the direction of the Crimson Fortress. After a long time of searching in the stormy white, she finally got a blurred view of the fort's gate.

“Wait, I think I saw someone on the rampart...” she murmured. “And they seemed to be waving for us...”

“Really?” Maxie asked eagerly, “Are they making signals? Asking for our help?”

“Under this weather? Shouldn't they be frozen to death already?” said Jeff shivering in his coat. He was from the South and was very bad at dealing with extreme weather

“You are right. They should be,” said Daran gloomily. “So take another look.”

He was gazing at the Crimson Fort with a telescope as well. His face had grown hard and expressionless.

Janet looked again.

This time she finally got a better view.

Daran was right.

Those were not people waving their hands at them...The dead didn't wave.

Hanging on the flagpole were a few corpses strapped completely naked. Their grayish-blue arms dangled in the strong wind, which may seem like waving if you looked from the distance.

Their faces were all frozen at a horrified and desperate expression.

“Oh my god...” Maxie murmured.

Janet felt a painful lump in her throat and a sudden flash of fury.

The rogues knew that they were coming.

And this was their message to them.

Daran lowered the telescope and turned towards the campsite, “Let’s head back and talk about our next move.”

They came back to the campsite and gathered up in an empty room. Daran stood in the middle and said, “We will attack Crimson Fort tonight.”

Everyone looked at each other with an astonished face.

“Well, this is a bit sudden,” Glen said. “Are we just going to march towards its front gate like that? Don’t we need to at least work out a plan?”

“It is why we came this far. I am good with tonight,” Maxie said firmly. She was infuriated by what she saw earlier hanging on the flagpole. She couldn’t wait to chase those rogues out of the city.

“But you said yourself that rogues are cunning. I don’t think it is going to work if we just attack head-on,” Glen said.

Daran replied with a nod, “You are right. The detailed attack plan will be sent to each of your phones later tonight. But I will have to ask you not to discuss the plan you have with any other people, for safety concerns.”

There was an awkward silence in the tent.

“What do you mean?” Steven asked in a rather aggressive voice, “We aren’t even allowed to discuss it with people sitting in this room? So you still think that the mole is among us!”

“That’s not what I meant,” Daran said calmly.

“It is exactly what you meant!” Steven snarled, “Just say it out loud already. Who do you suspect? Stop sneaking around like that!”

Maxie stood up to face him, “Why are you being jumpy now, Gamma Steven? We agreed to that, didn’t we? To follow Alpha Daran’s order with no questions asked. Why are you going out of your way to sabotage this plan?”

Why are you going out of your way to sabotage this plan?"

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"WHAT?!" Steven growled, his eyes gleaming with rage. "Are you saying that I am the mole?"

"So are you?"

"That's enough!" Janet hissed interrupting their quarrels. "We can't fight over everything. The rogues are out there killing our pack members. Let's drop our personal grievances and focus on the bigger picture. I am sure Alpha Daran doesn't suspect anyone in this room. It is simply part of his plan!"

Steven scanned around the room in fume. Then he stood up and stormed out of the tent.

Daran didn't seem to mind his attitude. Looking at the rest 4 Gammas, he said in a solemn voice, "Keep the plan to yourself, and don't share it with anyone else. Report to me at any time if someone tries to fish the plan out of you...Good luck with tonight."

A few hours later, the daylight waned. And it was finally time to get moving.

Janet led her soldiers out of the campsite and bumped into Maxie on her way out. They shared a brief look together and wished each other good luck.

They parted ways after that, with Maxie heading towards the East and Janet towards the West.

Janet and her soldiers trudged across the blizzard-raged land and approached the Crimson Fortress.

Half an hour later, they arrived at a small thicket of trees where they could already see the fort's tower and its heavy wall.

Janet asked her soldiers to stand by and wait for signals.

"What signals?" Balvina asked.

"You will know when the time comes," Janet said briefly.

So they waited in the woods and it was soon past midnight. The snow got heavier as the time passed.

It had been a few hours, but they still hadn't made a move.

Balvina kept checking her watch. And at last, she couldn't help but ask again, "What are we still waiting for? It's already 2 in the morning. The rogues must be asleep. It's the perfect timing for us."

"We'll stick to the plan," Janet insisted.

The extreme weather made everyone shiver. Many soldiers shifted into wolves to keep their bodies warm but soon even their fur couldn't stand the gusting wind.

Everyone was losing their patience.

Finally, at 3 a.m. A clamor of battle broke out from the North.

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Chapter 78

Chapter 78

It was a long and deep wolf howl followed by the noise of a large group fighting.

"It's from the North Gate!" Balvina snapped her head towards Janet, "Gamma Janet! What do we do?"

Even till this point, none of them knew what the battle plan was, except for Janet.

They weren't sure whether they should stand by right where they were or go to help the others out.

Janet answered briefly with a nod, "Let's go and give them a hand."

She leaped forward and shifted into a silver wolf in mid-air. All Blood Moon soldiers shifted behind their Gamma and followed her dashing towards the North.

The view was very poor in the heavy storm. It wasn't until they reached the North Gate of the fort did they saw fire and fighting soldiers.

It was a heated battle.

There were already many injured or dead bodies lying everywhere. Red blood splashed from many soldiers' open wounds and spilled across the snowy ground, forming a striking contrast to the white color of the snow.

Wolves were biting each other and wrestling on the ground with hot steam gushing out of their fangs-bared mouth and nose.

Some had lost energy to shift, and they engaged in sword or gunfight. The sound of bullets shooting and clicking and crashing of blades could be heard from all over the place.

In the center of the battlefield, a giant black wolf with a huge scar on its face was taking on 6 soldiers at the same time. He was extremely strong and fierce. It took 6 men, and they still couldn't bring him to his knee.

Janet let out a deafening roar and jumped at the black wolf. She was small compared to his massive size, but very fast and agile.

"Here comes the little she-wolf!" Sterning crackled, "Ready to kneel beneath the Rouge King's feet?"

Janet charged at him. She delicately twisted her body in the mid-air and got onto Sterning's back.

The giant black wolf growled in fury and tried to shake her off. But her four paws clung tightly to its back fur.

Lowering her head, she bit his neck sinking her sharp fangs into his flesh.

Sterning roared in pain and struggled even harder trying to throw her off his back. But he failed. The other 6 soldiers swamped him from all sides.

Janet ripped off a part of his flesh with her teeth and spat it to the ground.

"Your blood rakes," she hissed with disgust.

Just then, another rogue circled and tried to sneak up on her from the back.

But Janet didn't notice. Her entire focus was on Sterning.

Kass just finished up with a rogue. He turned around and spotted that Janet was in danger.

danger.

"Janet WATCH OUT!!"

He roared and dashed as fast as he could towards Janet, trying to save her from that.

But he was too far away.

There wasn't enough time.

And right at this second, somebody beat him to it.

A gigantic wolf arrived at the battlefield with a loud howl. He seized the rogue between his fangs and shook his giant head, sending that rogue flying up into the air

and dropping dead to the ground without a sound.

"Daran!" Janet gasped with excitement. Her heart was finally at ease at the sight of him.

Sterning jerked around, his face horror-struck.

"Daran..." he hissed.

Some of the other rogues cried out in panic, "Daran is here!"

"Christ, it's Daran!"

Fear spread across the battlefield like a plague.

"Steady!" Sterning snapped, "We have Crimson Fortress! Ain't gonna lose the battle this time! Everybody stays right where you are!"

Daran snorted coldly, "You won't have it for long."

His black fur rustled in the wind in a majestic manner, almost god-like.

Then he charged fiercely at Sterning.

With Daran and Riverside's soldiers here, Janet finally had time to check on other soldiers.

She found Glen not far away from the battlefield lying underneath a tree. There was a deep cut on his back.

"Glen!" Janet rushed to his side, "Are you hurt? What happened!"

Glen tried to pull himself up from the ground but failed. He let out a low-grown, “I started the attack at the North Gate as planned. But the rogues were already waiting for us! It was like walking right into their trap!”

Janet frowned.

“I think they got hands on our plan again!” Glen stomped the ground with his fist in rage, “That f**king traitor...”

“Have you told anyone about our plan?” Janet asked.

“No! I got Alpha Daran’s message about the battle plan around dusk and haven’t spoken to anyone since!” Glen said frustratedly, “But I can only speak for myself. Don’t know if the other Gammas had told anyone or not.”

Janet nodded and knelt by his side, “Let’s take you to a doctor. You are still bleeding.”

“Forget about me! We need to retreat immediately,” Glen said urgently. “The rogues know about our plan already. We are losing. Call everyone back before we lose more soldiers!”

“Relax. Daran is here. We don’t know it for sure yet,” Janet tried to comfort him.

“Are you crazy? I know Alpha Daran is strong, but he has only one man and he is facing a large crowd-”

He was cut off by a deafening roar.

They jerked around to look simultaneously.

Daran was standing on top of a dead rogue’s body and howling at the moon. His strong Alpha aura brought many rogues to tremble down to their knees.

Sterning struggled to stand straight but his body trembled violently under his animal instinct.

“Hand over your King!” Daran bared his fangs at Sterning, “Or I will rip your throat open!”

Sterning panted roughly with blood dripping down his face. Then he let out a strange laugh, “We are not like you hypocrites. We will never betray our King!”

“Well then.”

Daran's eyes gleamed dangerously, "Prepare to die.

Yet instead of quivering in fear, Sterning burst into laughter, "You just won a single battle! But we still have the Crimson Fort and thousands of civilians living in it. Unless you want more human popsicles on the flagpole, you better stand down now!"

Furious growls could be heard across the battlefield.

Sterning was threatening them with civilians' lives! And there seemed to be nothing they could do about it.

The cocky smile on Sterning's face grew wider as he said, "So what is it going to be, Alpha Daran? Retreat or stand here as I toss a couple more bodies over the wall?"

Daran narrowed his eyes and looked beyond Sterning to the rampant behind him. A horn broke out from the rampant the next second, followed by a loud cry that rang in the sky:

"Alpha Daran! We got the Crimson Fortress! We won!!"

Sterning snapped his head around. The cocky smile was quickly replaced by horror. "Impossible!" Sterning snapped with widened eyes, "How did you—Why—"

Daran sneered coldly, "Try/and figure this out in hell."

He leapt and charged forward at Sterning at full speed!

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Chapter 79

Chapter 79

"IMPOSSIBLE-

Sterning was in the middle of a furious roar when his body became stiff abruptly. Slowly, he looked down to his own chest.

A wolf paw had stuck into his chest. Steaming blood gushing out from this lethal wound.

Sterning rounded his eyes slightly. Everything happened too fast. He did not even have the time to feel the pain.

Daran stood in front of him. And with one hard pull, he withdrew his wolf paw from Sterning's chest.

Lying in his palm was a beating heart.

Sterning gave one last look at the large hole in his own chest. And then back at his heart in Daran's hand.

He had not even fully understood how they lost this battle, or how Daran defeated him, and his enormous body collapsed to the ground.

His eyes were enveloped in the gloom of death.

Sterning was dead.

The Rogue King's most trusted man, Sterning, was dead!

Daran raised his hand up in the air, still holding Sterning's heart, and shouted out one word:

11 -VICTORY!!"

His booming voice spread out across the field. Everyone looked at him and echoed him with a round of roaring applause.

Glen held his breath and gazed at Daran with an awed look.

"How did he..." Glen gulped, "How did Alpha Daran... I thought we were going to lose for sure..."

Janet stood by his side and was looking at Daran as well.

This scene reminded her of the reason she fell in love with Daran in the first place.

Daran may have wronged her in the past. But without a doubt, he was still the strongest, most powerful Alpha in the world.

Janet looked up to him since she was a little girl.

And this admiration is still deeply rooted in her heart even today.

“Let’s go.”

Janet took her eyes off Daran and said to Glen, “The Rogue King is still in the Crimson Fort. Hopefully, we can catch him before he runs away.

Jostled by the crowd of soldiers, they swarmed into the Crimson Fort through the North Gate. The gate was wide open now, thanks to Jeff and Steven.

Yet the city was still in complete chaos, with rogues running around like rats on the

Jostled by the crowd of soldiers, they swarmed into the Crimson Fort through the North Gate. The gate was wide open now, thanks to Jeff and Steven.

Yet the city was still in complete chaos, with rogues running around like rats on the street and taking civilians as their hostages.

Janet and her soldiers immediately got to work.

They spread out through the city and helped to rescue civilians from the rogue’s hand and put down the fire that the rogues set.

Janet caught a rogue under the rampart.

The rogue was about to climb up to the wall and escape. But Janet grabbed him by his ankle and dragged him down forcefully.

“Where is the Rogue King?”

Janet seized his throat and hissed in a dangerous voice.

The rogue

ugly grin.

looked back at her, breathing heavily. His yellow teeth are bared on an

“You will never catch the King,” he said arrogantly.

Janet added pressure to his throat. Her thumb pressed down on his Adam’s apple.

“You lost,” she said. “Answer wisely or I will snap your f**king n*ck like a twig. Now let us try this again—Where. Is. The. King?!”

The rogue quivered.

He said slowly through his gritted teeth, “I said...you will never catch the King-”

Janet tightened her grip abruptly as though she was about to break his neck the next second.

“B–Because–”

The rogue said urgently before she killed him.

“...We don’t know who the Rogue King is ourselves!” he gasped.

Janet froze.

“You have got to be kidding me,” she said.

“No, it is true! Nobody knows,” the rogue murmured. “We took all of our orders from Sterning. We never met the King once. We don’t even know if the King is a man or a woman. You caught Sterning...You should ask Sterning these questions!”

The fight between Daran and Sterning was life or death.

Daran did not have any time to interrogate Sterning before killing him.

And with Sterning dropping dead, nobody knew who the Rogue King was, not even these rogues.

How clever.

“Please...let me go,” the rogue begged Janet. “I told you everything that I know. No one is around. They won’t know if you set me free–”

Janet tightened her grip mercilessly.

Janet tightened her grip mercilessly.

With a snapping sound, the rogue was broken. He was dead almost instantly. Janet gave one cold look at his body and gazed into the distance.

The Rogue King could be anywhere now.

He, or she, could still be in the city. Or already fled away.

Yet Janet would have no way of knowing for sure because she didn’t know what the King looked like.

They took down Crimson Fort. But there were still many things to be worried about.

A horrified cry came from the distance.

Janet immediately turned around and rushed forward following that sound.

When she got there, she found a group of soldiers surrounding a house on fire. Cries and yells were coming from the house.

A young couple and their child were taken hostage by a rogue.

The rogue refused to step out nor let them go.

The roof was about to crash down in fire.

“Just step out already!” a soldier yelled at the rogue, “You will all going to die like this!”

The rogue held a knife against the couple’s back. A maniacal light gleamed in his bulging eyes.

“You will f**king kill me anyway! So I am taking these people with me! We are all going to die in the fire! Today!”

He roared with fanatic laughter.

The wife gasped a sob. Her husband held her waist tightly. His body was also trembling with fear.

The roof would crash down any minute.

They were running out of time.

“Step back,” Janet said to those soldiers.

“Gamma Janet! What are you going to do? It is too dangerous-”

“STEP BACK!”

Janet rushed straight at the house, shifting into a silver wolf in the midair. She bit on the rogue’s shoulder fiercely. The roof made a horrible squeaking sound at the same time.

“Take cover underneath my body!” Janet cried.

With a loud noise, the roof fell, coming down with burning flames. But it did not hit on the young couple and their child. Instead, it landed on the silver wolf’s back.

The group of soldiers rushed in and rescued them out of the burning house. The rogue's body was left on the ground. It was soon engulfed by the fire.

"Thank you...thank you..."

The husband held his crying wife with one hand and reached out another hand to Janet.

His face was lit by the joy of survival.

"Thank you so much," he repeated over and over again. "If it weren't for you, we would have died by now. You saved my family's life!"

Janet shifted back to human and shook his hand.

"You are welcome. We are just doing our job," she said.

She took one particular look at the husband.

This was a handsome man. Even with ashes and tear stains on his face, he still managed to stand out from the crowd with his appearance.

Even though he was dressed in a commoner's clothes, he still looked like a noble.

"What is your name?" Janet asked.

"Lance Adler. And this is my wife, Layla. I am the local smith."

Janet nodded to them with a smile, "How is your child doing? I didn't scare him, did I?"

Layla showed Janet the baby in her arms. Luckily, the baby was sleeping soundly.

Janet was about to ask this family a few more questions when the sound of trumpets rang in the distance.

"What is that noise!" Layla asked, sounding startled. "Are the rogues coming back?"

"No, it is coming from our army. The Alpha is summoning us," Janet reassured. "You are perfectly safe. But I should go now."

She waved the Alders goodbye and went for the sound of the trumpets.

This sound meant that the city was under control now.

Daran was asking them to get together.

They still had no idea who the Rogue King was. But there was a more urgent task.

It was the time for them to dig out the mole.

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Chapter 80

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A large tent was set up in the middle of Central Plaza.

Some soldiers were gathered outside of the tent.

They all turned to look at Janet with an awed look when she came close. One of them rushed to lift the curtain for her.

“Gamma Janet, that was a great fight!” the soldier said to her enthusiastically.

“Thank you,” Janet replied with a smile.

“Alpha Daran is expecting you inside.”

Janet stepped into the tent.

Daran was standing in the middle of the room, using a towel to clean the blood stain on his body.

He turned around abruptly when Janet walked in.

Their eyes locked for a long moment.

Daran abandoned the towel and strode forward. He seized Janet’s shoulder and pulled her into his arms forcefully.

Janet was taken aback.

She could hear his quickened heartbeat and heavy breathing. His hands were also slightly shaking on her back.

“What is the matter?” Janet broke the silence and asked.

Daran shook his head and buried her face into her hair, taking in a deep inhale of her scent.

“I was afraid of losing you,” he said deeply.

“Are you serious?” Janet said under her breath, “I am standing right here. Safe and sound. What made you think that?”

“This is the first time that I saw you on the battlefield. I know that you have a strong wolf and everything. But when that rogue came at you...My heart almost stopped beating. I couldn't help but wonder...what would happen to you if I was a minute late...”

He tightened his arms around her, hugging her more tightly.

Janet could hardly breathe in his arms.

Yet her heart swelled.

This was the first time Darán revealed his true feelings to her,

He used to be so cold, so closed-up, and it was impossible for her to figure out what he was thinking through his expressionless face.

But now, he opened up to her voluntarily.

He said that he was afraid.

Janet once thought that a brave man like Daran was not afraid of anything.

But he was afraid of losing her.

“Hey.”

Janet stroked his back gently.

“You got there on time. And I am fine. There is nothing to worry about.”

“I know. But-

“Even if you didn't, I would still be alright. I am a Gamma, remember? I proved myself capable of fighting side by side with you. You can trust me with your back, just like I trust you with mine.”

Daran straightened his back and cupped her face with his hands.

He stared deep into her eyes.

“Always,” he murmured. “I trust you. With my life.”

Janet’s heart rate quickened. Her mouth was dry as well.

And it was probably an illusion but...somehow the room temperature seemed to be rising.

They were only a few inches away from each other. They had not been this closed since Daran rejected her.

And now, they were leaning toward one another.

Janet fluttered her eyes shut and felt her heart thumping wildly in her chest.

—

She could almost feel the gentle touch of Daran’s lips on hers-

“Alpha Daran! What a great fight!”

A sudden voice came from the door, and they separated almost instantly.

Steven, Jeff, Maxie, and Glen just walked in. Each one of them had a large grin on their face.

They froze by the door when they saw Janet and Daran inside.

Daran’s hands were still on Janet’s cheek.

“Oh.”

Jeff let out an awkward laugh and scratched his head.

“Do you want us to come back?”

Daran cleared his throat and dropped his hand, “There is no need. Come on inside.”

Janet felt her cheeks on fire/

It almost felt as though her parents walked in on her while she was making out with her high school boyfriend in bed.

The six of them took their seats.

“Last night was a good fight. Great work, everyone.”

Daran looked around the room with a faint smile.

“Yet before you go and have some rest, I do want to take some time and recap last night. I believe that you all have some questions.”

The 5 Gammas exchanged looks.

“OK. I will start.”

Jeff spoke up first.

“My man and I were waiting outside of the East Gate. Around 3 o’clock, we heard fighting noises coming from the north-”

“That is me,” Glen said. “I attacked the North Gate and the rogues attacked back fiercely. If it weren’t for Alpha Daran and Gamma Janet, we would have lost this battle already.”

“But that is weird,” Maxie said. “I received no resistance from the South Gate.”

“Neither do I,” Steven said.

“Yeah, same here!” Jeff added with a nod, “The East Gate was wide open. It was almost like that no one was guarding it.”

Glen raised an eyebrow, “So you are saying that all the rogues were at the North Gate last night?”

“It would appear so,” Janet said coolly.

“Well, that is kind of crappy for me.” Glen shrugged, “But it works out for the Just because all the other 3 gates were wide open, we can take down Crimson Fort this easily.”

army.

The other 4 Gammas agreed with a nod.

But not Janet.

She exchanged a look of apprehension with Daran.

“So did anyone you see the Rogue King?” Daran asked.

Maxie answered, “No. I tried to ask a rogue, but he said that he didn’t know who the Rogue King was. I am not sure if he was lying or not.”

“He is telling the truth.”

Janet straightened her back. A cold gleam was in her slit eyes.

“The Rogue King has been hiding from their own men, giving orders through Sterning and Sterning only. It is very clever. Even though they lost the battle, we still have no idea of where our biggest enemy is.”

The room fell into a deadly silence.

Everyone was gripped by the fear of the unknown.

“Well, let’s cheer up a bit, shall we?”

Steven stretched his body and grinned.

“Sure, we don’t know who the Rogue King is. But we just won a huge battle and saved most people’s lives in Crimson Fort! We deserve to celebrate. So what do you say we pop open some beers and go wild for a night? Huh?”

Glen smiled, “I like that idea.”

Yet before people could be completely relaxed, Daran raised a hand and said, “Hold on a second. I think that you have forgotten about something.”

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Everyone turned to look at him.

“The mole,” Daran said.

The smile died upon their lips.

“...You are really a buzzkill, Alpha Daran,” Jeff murmured.

He slumped back into his seat and sighed frustratedly.

“Sure, if you want to talk about that, let us talk. We still don’t know who the mole is, don’t we? And we managed to win this battle anyway. Maybe the mole didn’t take action.”

“Or maybe keeping information enclosed within this small group helped,” Maxie said.
“This system works.”

“No.”

Janet shook her head firmly,

“The mole did take action. The battle plan was leaked.”

Maxie gasped sharply. And the others rounded their eyes in shock

“Only the 6 people in this room know about the battle plan!”

Steven straightened his back and glared at Janet.

“Are we back to that conversation again? Are you saying that the mole is in this very room? Let me tell you. I am so f**king tired of you making random accusations without any proof-

”

“I have the proof,” Janet said calmly.

She stood up and glanced around the room.

She saw different looks on people’s faces: shock, wonder, perplex, anger...and fear.

And you are right. The mole is indeed here in this very room.”

The atmosphere tensed up instantly.

With everyone watching, Janet slowly raised an arm.

“The mole is-

She pointed at a certain person in this room.

“-him.”

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