

The Alpha King's Heart Chapter 26

Azriel pushed open the door and i entered the house, " Thank you for dinner, Azriel," he nodded and I was about to go upstairs when a gruff voice stopped me.

" Adira! Where were you?"

Azriel muttered something under his breath as my head jerked to my mate. I missed him, " Hi, finally," I said. Standing on my tiptoes to kiss him quickly but he didn't touch me, his dangerous eyes were on his brother.

" Why are you here and with my mate?" he demanded. I look between the tall men. Their similarities and height were uncanny. I noticed the beta and gamma were watching in the corner, they looked a little uneasy. Do the brothers, not like each other?

" I got here days ago, and I'll let her tell you why we came in together," Azriel sighed.

" Why are you not at the palace? In your residence?"

" I wanted to be here, any problem with that?"

" Yes, you didn't report- "

" Um, " I cleared my throat to get his attention. My mate glared at me

" Why are you with him?"

" I work with him at the Academy, I'm his assistant," I told him.

" I don't remember saying you could work,"

" Because I don't remember asking for your permission. I simply told you I want to work," I retorted.

" Well, I don't want you to," he said, resolute. I inhaled and kissed his hard torso, I looked up at him and smiled,

" Well, too bad for you because I love the work I have right now," I walked away. I heard Azriel chortle and Jett and Aspen stared at me in shock. I nodded curtly to them and went to Lucas' room. He was already sleeping. Poor kid must be tired, their training is so intense, and he has football practice on top of it all.

Reaching my room, I took off my clothes and prepared a bubble bath.

" Dinner is ready, my lady and they are waiting for you," A servant informed me.

"Who's they?" I asked.

"The king, beta, and gamma," she said. I was still feeling full from the meal I had earlier so I shook my head no.

"I ate minutes ago and I'm still full,"

The young lady walked away. I relaxed as I got the shower and closed my eyes. My thoughts went to what Azriel told me again. The brothers and their moms must have had a hard life. My poor Wyatt, I can't begin to imagine all he's been feeling, knowing that his mother was abused and raped by his father must be difficult for him. No wonder he killed him.

My eyes snapped open when my hands wrapped around me and I jumped abruptly. I was too deep in my thoughts to even feel the sparks.

"Are you alright?" he asked, concerned. I took in a deep breath and nodded.

"I'm sorry. I didn't register sooner," Wyatt held his hand out to me and I took it. He wrapped a soft white towel around my body. He kissed my temple like he usually would and I hugged him.

"Are you sure you're alright, you're shaking,"

"I'm fine. I'm sorry, I didn't come down for dinner," I said. He suddenly cradled me in his arms and took me to the walk-in closet. Wyatt wiped my body and tied my hair in a messy bun. He gave me pajamas and socks before taking me to the bedroom.

I sat on the couch with him next to me, "Tell me about your new job,"

"It's not what I would normally do but it's something," I shrugged.

"You and Azriel seemed close?"

"Oh no, he just heard me telling Lucas that I needed a job and offered me one at the Academy,"

"I don't like that," he sighed.

"I know I'm not the best trainer out there but I'm not half as bad," I said, and he caressed my cheeks

"It's not that, Azriel and I are not close. I would hate for him to get into your head and turn you against me," he said and I raised an eyebrow. I knew they were not close.

"Has your relationship with your brother always been estranged?" his gaze moved past me to the window.

"Not really but we've always been put against each other by our father and generals but he hated me when I became king," he whispered, pressing his lips together.

"Why didn't he?"

"My father was the dark king, Adira," he said and I nodded, already knowing that information.

"Azriel left when we made a move against the tyrant king,"

My eyes bulge out. Did Azriel abandon his brother at a crucial time?

"I gathered allies and made deals with other packs to fight with me against my father's militia. I raised an army, even the enemies he made during his reign joined me,"

"Azriel left that period?"

"Yes, he just left without a word so I had to face the dark king alone, at first, he thought it was a joke, but I kept on attacking him until he knew I meant to kill him. We fought for hours and no one intervened because his people were fighting my army and anyone who tried to fight against me in the palace, my mother had people ready to kill them," I could feel and hear a deep sadness from him no matter how hard he tried to conceal it from me, I wanted to touch him and tell him, hey, it's okay to be sad. You can cry if you want. You've been through a lot of terrible things no child should endure but my lips were shut, scared that if I opened my mouth to speak, it's a sob that would expect my lips so I settled on squeezing his hand. That's all I could do right now.

"We won the war, finally but I stayed in the hospital for months. He hurt me badly even though I killed him. When I healed, we started making moves to dissolve the former parliament as they were all corrupt. Anyone who was associated with my father was banished.

"Who's we?"

"My mother was of course there and a few old fair alphas who hated my father. We created a new parliament because the people didn't want another ruler who will dictate them," he said

"In short they wanted nothing to do with my father's bloodline but after a good discussion and debate, they chose me. I didn't want to be king at first, I only went for the bastard because he hurt me and my mother but the people thought it was selfless, and here I am," He concluded.

” And Azriel?” I asked. Wyatt sighed.

” He came back a year after my crowning and accused me of taking what’s his, it was so bad that he even challenged me, we fought and I won,” he shrugged, getting up and going to the window. I hugged him from behind. He placed his hands over mine.

” Azriel and I are not enemies, he is part of the parliament, an important asset to the pack actually but we don’t like each other,”

” You must be tired, my angel, let’s go to bed,” he said.

I got in bed and he held me tenderly, I didn’t know if I still wanted to work with Azriel after learning all this. Could he use me to hurt my mate?

‘ No, I like training, please don’t stop!’

‘ Kira, you heard, Wyatt,’

‘ No, Adira, we need our strength,” she muttered. I sighed and closed my eyes.

The Alpha King’s Heart Chapter 27

I woke up to kisses on my neck, I smiled and cupped Wyatt’s handsome face. ” Hi, handsome,”

” Good morning, beautiful,” he kissed my lips without a care that I just woke up. He climbed on top of me, kissing and ravishing my body. Carnal desire was evident in his eyes.

” I miss your body against mine,” he purred. I tilted my neck to give him more access, softly moaning. His fingers caressed my breasts tenderly, as he kissed me deeply and then sucked on my hardened nipples.

” Did you miss me?” he asked, his fingers going under my pajama pants and caressing my smooth cunt. He trailed kisses down my skin and left pleasurable sensations. I was getting wetter. He pulled my pants down and kissed my inner core.

” Yes, yes,” I moaned. He brought his face over mine and positioned himself between my legs, he slid his c**k in me making my breath hitched. I was moaning as he started to thrust in me. His moves were relentless and I drowned in pleasure, I wanted more of him ...so much more. My fingers were in his hair and went on to caress his muscular back. Wyatt was making love to me hungrily and passionately. Pleasure overrode me as I moved beneath him. My voice getting louder and louder. The sound of skin against each other and our voices echoed the room.

"F**k," he growled. We were consumed in pleasure and I moved closer to him, I felt my release coming, hard.

"I'm cumming!" I cried. My core tightened when he hit my G-spot again. I orgasmed, holding him tighter as my legs around his torso shook. It felt f*****g good. His movements were erratic and soon, he released his load into me. Our chests were rising and falling, still in a daze of our mind-blowing o****m. We broke apart, breathing heavily and he held me tightly.

"Are you not going to work today?" I asked softly.

"A little later, what time is your work?" he asked, my eyes shot open.

"You're letting me go?"

"Well, you did make it clear that you weren't asking for approval," he laughed and I got over him quickly, it took him by surprise and I kissed his lips just as the door opened.

"There they are!" A cheerful feminine voice said. I gasped and rolled off him to cover my naked body.

"Mom!" Wyatt growled. I peeked out of the sheets to see his mother and there she was; divinely beautiful. She was tall and slender with blonde hair and she wore pantsuits. Mila was smiling at me gently. She walked closer to the side I was.

"There's our beautiful girl," She beamed. She didn't even look fazed that we were naked under the sheets and the room smelled of s*x. I smiled awkwardly at her.

"Hello,"

"Mom, get out now. You're making her uncomfortable," Wyatt roared, but Mila didn't seem fazed by it all.

"Adira dearest, I've been wanting to see you since my son told me you were mated. I couldn't believe it," She said "Fate works in wonderful ways, don't you think Wyatt,"

Her son only grinned at her and I squinted my eyes. What did she mean by that?

"I've cooked breakfast, meet me downstairs in ten minutes," she turned to walk away, her high heels not even making a sound as she walked gracefully out of the room.

"I'm sorry about that, she gets too excited sometimes," Wyatt said, running a hand in his hair.

"What did she mean by fate works in wonderful ways?" I asked.

" You may not remember this but your parents came to the palace a few times with you but you couldn't have been more than five at the time, Adira," he informed me. " No wonder you looked so familiar when I saw you and my wolf leaped in joy because even as a child, I was drawn to you... It was because we were mates," he said and I felt tears of happiness burn through my eyes. Wyatt and I met years ago and I didn't remember it. This was so surreal!

" You even asked me to take you when you are older," I poked his chest and scoffed,

" Why didn't you sooner?"

" I wanted to, I promise but after my eighteenth birthday, things got worse with my father," he explained. He told me a little about our time together and we went to the shower.

My mate helped me bathe, he cupped my breasts gently and bent down to suck them. I shook my head and kissed him a little roughly, he hoisted me up and entered me.

" Wyatt!" I gasped. How can a man be this insatiable? My eyes shut as he moved inside me, slamming in me hastily. His lips were on my neck, and it drove me crazy. My hips were grinding against his like a dance.

" Yes! Oh, f**k!" I screamed. I gripped his broad shoulders, wanting more.

" YES, YES!"

" Uhm, more,"

" Yea, I'll give you more," he breathed against my ear, spanking my a*s cheeks.

" Oh Wyatt," It felt so good and I felt my climax coming.

" I like it when you moan my name," He husked sexily, licking my neck. This man was driving me crazy, he knew my body so well. He was on a mission to murder my p***y with his monster c**k.

" Yea, f**k me, baby,"

Wyatt couldn't control his guttural moans as he slammed in me deeper and fast.

I let out a silent erotic scream as I squirt all over him and I felt my vision darken but he continued. Pounding me harder and faster until he reached his prime... Both of us were breathing heavily.

" You're so f*****g beautiful, Adira and you're mine, only mine," he kissed me sloppily, still in a haze. He removed my hair from my face, and I'm sure my hair was a mess.

"I'm yours," I said. He nodded and cupped my face, he gave me a passionate kiss.

The Alpha King's Heart Chapter 28

I wore a high-neck sleeveless dress and white canvas, Wyatt was ready too in a black costume. He looked too handsome and I was jealous that all those she-wolves will be eye f*****g him.

"Why do you have to be so handsome?" I moaned. He smirked at me.

"Jealousy suites you,"

We walked downstairs to the living room where everyone was; Aspen, Jett, and Lucas. They were talking about some game but stopped when they saw us.

"Morning, everyone," I greeted. I kissed my brother and ruffled his hair.

"Adira, Darling!" Mila beamed, stretching her hands wide to me. She was walking over to me elegantly and one could tell that she was an epitome of a classy woman.

I returned her smile and she hugged me so kindly, stroking my hair. She pulled away and caressed my cheek.

"Welcome home, Adira, you may not remember me but I knew you as a child," She told me.

"Hello, Ma'am, it's good to see or meet you, I don't know now," I chuckled. She frowned.

"Call me Mila, please," she said.

She exchanged pleasantries and I noticed as we talked, she became sad and I looked at her concerned.

"Are you alright?"

"You look just your mom, so beautiful," she said and I flushed, remembering my mom. She was the most beautiful woman in any room she stood in but was humble and kind.

"let's go eat," Wyatt said, circling his arms around my waist. I caught a glimpse of Azriel, he was watching me.

We sat at the table and started to eat, there was chatter, everyone discussing.

"Anything left for me?" A voice asked. Azriel.

"Hi, sweetheart," Mila smiled at him, telling him to seat at the other end. He did, and she served him his food lovingly. Wyatt didn't even spare his older brother a glance, even his men looked displeased to see him. I'm sure they held a grudge that he abandoned them during a war. Maybe Azriel had a reason to do that.

'Don't make excuses for him, he betrayed our mate' Kira bellowed in my head.

I didn't know why I was but I spent like three days with him, and he didn't seem too bad. I closed off my wolf.

Wyatt put a hand over mine, silently asking if I was alright and I nodded. Breakfast was over and I rushed upstairs to grab my bag. We were walking today since we had time.

I kissed my mate goodbye, I intended to give him a quick kiss but he deepened it, unashamed in front of everyone.

"Is your driver ready?" he asked when he pulled away. I shook my head and he frowned.

"We like to walk,"

"We?"

"Yeh, Luca and I," I said. He nodded but wasn't happy. I lingered a while, hoping Azriel will join us but he was busy talking to Mila.

"Azriel, you coming?" Lucas called. Since when do they talk?

"Yea," he said and kissed Mila on the cheek.

"Bye, baby," I waved as I turned to leave but Wyatt grabbed my hand and spun me around. I almost slammed my body into his chest. His nose brushed mine and I felt the hair on my skin stand up.

"Why are you going with him?" he all but growled and I narrowed my gaze on him.

"Um, we work in the same place?"

"he doesn't work there," he hissed,

"I volunteer to help out there," chimed Azriel.

"That's sudden," Jett added, staring at me. What was he implying?

"I have no time for you," growled Azriel. The tension in the room was thick and could be cut with a knife. Mila stepped forward,

"What's your problem," she was looking at Jett and Wyatt.

"You know the problem, I don't like her near him because -" Wyatt was interrupted by Azriel.

"I might say something to her that will make her hate you?" he said and I looked at my mate, his gaze found me and he looked at me strangely. What was that look in his eyes? Guilty?

"Azriel, enough," Mila said calmly. They had a silent conversation. They were mind-linking.

"Is there something you're not telling me, Wyatt?"

My heart was pounding for an unknown reason. I didn't understand why I felt scared. I wanted his assurance, for him to tell me that all was alright. He inhaled and glared at his brother before putting his hands on my shoulder.

"No, nothing at all," he gave me a halfhearted smile. "It's work stuff, my brother can be irrational and not think of consequences sometimes because I swear, if something goes wrong, he'll pay dearly for it," His eyes were trained on his brother as he said the words while Azriel had an amusing smirk on his lips, almost taunting and daring.

"What a f*****g good mate you are, brother. Luna, shall we?" Azriel said, his gaze traveling to me before looking at his brother, "She is the Luna, right?"

Wyatt was growling and Mila deadpanned, shaking her head. I touched Wyatt's chest, and he was shaking in anger.

"I- Is everything okay?" My voice trembled. He looked down at me and brought my hands to his lips, kissing them.

"I'll see you later, go,"

I slowly turned around and held onto Lucas' hand as we walked outside.

"You're trembling," Luca said, looking at me with concern-filled eyes.

"I didn't realize," I whispered.

We walked to the school. I was deep in thought the whole day there, Mrs. China, the eighth-grade teacher asked me to help her with a class as she has a doctor's appointment so I did that. Afterward, I went to Azriel at the field.

"What is going on?" I asked. He didn't turn around, instead, just walked over to the bleachers and I followed him, sitting next to him.

” What do you mean, Adira,”

” Don’t play dumb now, what was that at home earlier?” I hissed at him. He sighed and ran a hand through his fingers.

” Oh that, don’t mind us. My brother and I like to irk each other,” he shrugged.

” That was not it, I know you two have issues but that wasn’t just about those issues. Azriel, is he hiding something from me,” I asked, looking him dead in the eyes. He swallowed and looked at me with the same intensity.

The Alpha King’s Heart Chapter 29

” He loves you, he wants you,” he said, the words sounding bitter from his tongue.

” That’s not the question,”

” If you doubt him, ask him,”

” I did and you heard what he said,”

” And you don’t believe him,” he stated. Something was wrong and I knew it. I grabbed his hand gently and he stiffened, I squinted my eyes at his reaction. Does he not like to be touched?

” Sorry,” I murmured, retracting my hand.

” Do you love him?” his question took me by surprise but I nodded. I didn’t know how or when but I did. I fell for Wyatt.

” Yes, I love him a lot and would hate if he was hiding something from me,”

” What if he was?” he asked. I didn’t know what to say to that. I didn’t even think about that far ahead.

” I don’t know,” I admitted softly.

” Just give it time,”

” Give what time, Azriel, you’re scaring me,” My voice trembled.

” Don’t be, you’re alright. Your mate loves you,” he said, and I smiled halfheartedly at him. He was staring at me.

"Have you eaten?" he asked suddenly and I shook my head. He stood up and directed me to the restaurant just as my brother scored a goal and his team ran up to him, hugging him.

"Yea, Go Luca!" I clapped, cheering for him and he grinned at me.

"He's good," Commented Azriel.

Several nights went by and I got used to my routine, choosing to free myself from any doubt or worry. Over the last few days, I've been training a lot and my stamina has increased. I was lying on the grass, under the half moon when his scent wrapped around me. I smiled at Azriel, sitting up. Wolf came too, sniffing me and licking me with his wet tongue. I pushed him away but he was too excited to see me.

"Wolf, that's gross," I laughed. He put his huge head on my lap and I patted him gently as he liked.

"He likes me better than you," I teased and he scoffed.

"He likes anyone who pats him and gives him belly scratches that one," he said. I looked back in the direction they came from.

"Where do you go?" I asked. Noticing they always seem to disappear around the same time.

"Wolf likes to hunt and I escort him," he said.

"Hmm, do you shift too,"

"I can't do that right now," he said and I tilted my neck.

"You don't have a wolf?" I asked and he hushed me. He sat next to me.

"I do but he left me," he shrugged his shoulders. I was shocked.

"What do you mean he just left you, you're an alpha by blood," I said, he closed his eyes momentarily.

"I don't know why I'm even telling you this really," he murmured.

"I want to know,"

"My wolf left me years ago," he said.

"YEARS!" he clasped a hand over my lips and I bite him. He hissed and removed it from my lips.

" Yes,"

" Is this why you left during the war against your father?" I asked softly. He looked at me before nodding.

" I see Wyatt told you that," he mumbled.

" But why did your wolf leave,"

" His mate died, and I didn't do shit about it," he admitted. My eyes widen but didn't say anything.

" I found my mate and the dark king killed her in my presence. She was working against him, against our family. May, pretended to be with me and when it was discovered, the punishment was death," he explained as best as he could. He was emotional and his eyes stung with unshed tears but he was too proud to cry.

" May hated us, her whole life she was raised to despise my family and that didn't change when she discovered I was her mate," he shrugged. I held his hand and he looked at me with an emotion I was unfamiliar with.

" My wolf despised me and hated me... I know, son of a bitch so I left, I couldn't risk anyone knowing I had no wolf, and my father would make me prey just to distract Wyatt so I left," He sighed, running his fingers through his tousled hair.

" Wyatt hated me for leaving him alone, I was his older brother and he expected me to have his back even if it was just that time. I came back a year after the war was won, I knew Wyatt will win, he was determined and stronger for his age," he said the last part with a small smile. He was proud of Wyatt.

" He took charge of everything, even the parliament wanted him as king even though they hated our bloodline, and my wolf resurfaced again,"

" Why?"

" He was just angry at Wyatt for taking what's ours and he transmitted that anger to me. We challenged him and lost,"

" And your wolf disappeared again," I whispered, he nodded and my heart hurt for him. He must have been in pain at his loss.

" Your wolf had issues but he'll come back if he did before," I grumbled and he nodded.

" Yes, but for now, I have Wolf," he gave his pet a few scratches.

" Does anyone know you have no wolf?" I asked.

"Wyatt's inner circle and Mila know about it so you can't tell anyone," he said

"I won't," I gave him my word.

"I'm sorry about everything that happened, Azriel," I told him sincerely.

"Let's go inside, it's getting... Chilly," he said and I followed him in. He still looked vulnerable, he gave me a faint nod and I went up, first to Lucas' room. I was told he had just finished eating and gone to bed.

"Luca," I called gently.

"Hmm," he mumbled.

"Good night, buddy,"

"Good night,"

Wyatt pov

"I can't believe you haven't told her about Rachel," Mom scolded, glaring at me. I sat back down and brought my hand to my face. I wanted to tell her the truth but every time she looked at me with those innocent eyes of hers, I couldn't produce any words.

"Sooner or later she will find out that you have marked another woman as your Luna, man." Aspen sighed.

"Rachel is not my f*****g Luna, she fooled me into marking her,"

I didn't know why they were making it a big deal. No one in the pack had officially met Rachel as my Luna, they just heard rumors but a public official introduction had not been done yet. And besides, I already told Rachel that I won't make her my Luna.

"I already told Rachel that I found my mate," I informed them.

"What did she say?"

"She told me that she doesn't care about that. All she wants is the title of Luna and Queen,"

"And your love and body," Chuckled Jett.

"She wants you to make her Queen? What about Adira?"

" I can't do that mom, I refused her and of course, she started sobbing and bringing up the mark shit, scared that her wolf will go feral if I marked another. It's a good thing Adira hasn't shifted yet because how could I tell her my reason for not marking her,"

" Rachel is trouble, she knew very well that your mark will keep her by your side and if she goes crazy because of you, we are talking about another war," Mother sighed in exhaustion.

" What should I do about Rachel's mark?"

" Her wolf needs to accept that you rejected her and then it will fade, it takes time but it will," she said, and I nodded. We couldn't risk a war right now with the dark wolves targetting us.

" But you need to tell Adira about Rachel, the blue moon is upon us in a month and she will expect you to mark her once she shifts,"

" Can I just tell her once Rachel's mark fades?" I asked, I don't want to hurt Adira, not when we are getting along so well. I'm scared she'll see me in a different light, a liar and I don't want that.

" You're setting yourself up for failure then, Wyatt. She will be hurt but she will heal and you will be free of any secrets,"

" Her former pack hurt her, Mom, they abused her and did so much emotional damage, I just don't want her to associate me with any painful memories," I confessed.

" And Azriel," Aspen asked.

" he knows the consequences of telling her," I said. I spoke to him earlier about it and he understood it's my truth to tell. He gave me his word that he won't say a word to her, hopefully, he keeps it.

" So you plan to keep Adira in the dark?" Asked mom.

" I'll tell her eventually but after I settle everything and she can come to the palace as my official Queen, without anyone questioning her status," I explained my plan.

The Alpha King's Heart Chapter 30

I was sulking the next days because Wyatt has been staying at the palace for some time.

I was sitting in the common area, my back against the pool table as I read a book but let's face it, I couldn't even concentrate. I needed to do something, anything else.

" Hey," I jumped from the floor when I spotted Azriel passing by.

"What?" he gruffed.

" Where to?" I asked, ignoring his rude tone.

" Excuse me?" he raised an eyebrow at my overly excited voice.

" I thought we were friends so..." I trailed and he smirked at me, crossing his arms against his chest,

" We are not friends, and you need to get yourself some,"

" I thought we were!"

" Just because I told you some details about my life doesn't make you my friend," he said coldly and I was taken back. I was quick to assume.

" Okay, then," I said quietly, facing the floor.

" I'm going to the border wall, there was a severe attack the last two days and I'm going to check on the situation, to see if it can get us some leads," he explained, going to his jeep. I looked at him with puppy dog eyes, hoping he'll ask me to join him.

" Your mate doesn't want you near the border, he'll kill me when he finds out I took you outside the pack," he said.

" Pretty, please,"

" Adira, no,"

" Wyatt will be at the palace for days and will be too busy to even notice," I said and his eyes flashed as if thinking.

" Oh, the alpha's seminar, yeh," he muttered.

" Fine, get in but stay close to me and you are not allowed to wander no matter what. The time is crucial and if our largest border was attacked, it can only mean the dark wolves are getting closer," he said and I rushed to go to the passenger seat. I buckled my seatbelt. I was happy to go somewhere.

I was getting bored as we have been on the tarmac for an hour now. I connected my phone to his radio and played music. Azriel turned it off.

" Why?"

"It's boring," he sneered.

"Westlife is amazing, are you kidding me?"

He narrowed his gaze on me for a fleeting second before he concentrate on the road again.

"What do you like then?" I asked.

"I like Jazz," he pressed a button, and a song came up, he bobbed his head, vibing to the music but I wasn't. I wish I came with my AirPods. I listened to the music with him, and soon, I was smiling. It was nearly noon when we reached the border. I jumped out of the car with Azriel's help and walked out carefully. My eyes roamed around the border camps and my heart thumped in my chest. There were men injured and other dead soldiers but I was more concerned about the injured because there was only a few medical personnel helping them.

"Are you alright?" I heard Azriel's concerned voice. He was standing close to me and if I moved an inch, our noses would touch.

"Why is it like this? And why aren't they receiving any help from the palace?" I asked.

"That's why we are here, enough money is sent to them for all they need,"

"Sir!" An older general walked to us, smiling. He was a man in his eighties but still looked fit. He shook Azriel's hand and his eyes roamed over me and lingered on my chest. I regretted wearing a tank top that showed some cleavage. I instinctively moved closer to Azriel and he placed a hand on my back, growling at the general who gulped and smiled,

"Hello, nice young lady," he said, he extended his hand to me and shook it quickly.

"What happened here?" Azriel asked in an authoritarian tone. The general opened his eyes wider and asked us to follow him.

We went to a large tent but one guard blocked my path.

"You can't go in there," he said like a robot, not even looking at me.

"Why?"

"Only high-ranking members are allowed in," he said and I nodded, trying to peak inside but he wouldn't let me. I could hear voices coming from there and Azriel came back.

"Come in," he said, taking his hand. He retracted his immediately as though I burnt him and I furrowed my eyebrows. I entered the tent and indeed, men were sitting around a black oak table, studying different maps. They all looked at me when I walked closer and I saw the confusion on their face.

" Apologies gents, I picked up a friend of mine on my way here," Azriel said.

" No women are allowed in camps," a brooding general sneered. I stared at each one of them, they all looked indifferent.

" Why aren't women allowed to be in camps?" I asked in a relatively stable tone.