

Chapter 140

As expected, the wolves came first. Their snarling and pounding of their paws drowned out every other sound in the forest. Our side had quieted as we waited for their attack. Auri stepped up though, out of the line. Her fur rippled like water as an immense flow of power left her, filling the forest. She barked out a single command and all the wolves we could see coming towards us shifted to their human forms. The sound of their bones assembling back into their body on a massive scale reverberated through the forest.

Hector raced forward ahead of her, chomping the closest wolf's, now confused human's, head off. It was all that was needed. Our forces surged forward and around us. Vale started to go with them but my paws were planted firmly in the ground. Stopping and turning, Vale looked at me with his gold eyes.

'Can you do this, Z? It's okay if...'

My eyes widened as a wolf came from behind, leaping right at Vale as his back was turned to me. I stepped forward, one step, then another. Suddenly, I was running towards him full sped. Jumping over him, I attacked the sand colored wolf, my teeth tearing into his belly as I slammed him down into the forest. Nothing mattered now but protecting my family. Fear wouldn't stop me. I ripped out the chunk I had in my jaws, scratching at body until he stopped moving.

'Thanks.'

I looked up at Vale who was next to me. 'Sorry. I almost

got you bit there. Don't worry about me. I'll be fine.'

He wolfish grin and quick nod made me smile. Vale took off and I followed after him. Together, we took out everyone on the way. We were now behind the main force of the pack but we were quickly catching up, not being slowed down by bodies. As we started to weave our way through the fights, Vale and I would split, helping either even a fight or end another. We always reconvened together though, pushing forward.

It was when we hit the vampires that our progress slowed. They were more well equipped to fight us in our wolf form. Up ahead, I saw that Auri had shifted and she was wielding two sliver blades. Next to her, Hector was completely black, the blood matting his hair as he protected his mate. Auri was covered as well and the smile I had seen back in the camp, the day I was warned to not follow her, was plastered on her face. She was killing vampires like they were made of butter, sliding a hot knife through them.

Vale shifted as well and I felt my fear spike. I wasn't as well versed in fighting like this with Vale. Still, Vale had been training with Auri in human form. A silver sword made it into his hands and he attacked. I raced up behind him, taking out one coming from the left. He was able to focus on the two ahead as I tore off the arm of one with my teeth. Faris growled and I figured he had enough of my sad display of fighting. Letting him forward, his growls were low and gravelly. He didn't aim for extremities. He was the cold hard alpha wolf he was supposed to be.

Together, we continued our plow through their forces. Seeing them on paper they seemed so much more. Now, as we fought through them, they seemed less. Less ready

to fight. Less battle hardened. Less in numbers. We continued to fight until there was a bubble of fighting around us.

'How are the others doing?' I asked Vale.

'The back side has already made it up to the secret tunnels. AJ and Simon are holding the line there. Making sure no one comes out. From what the guys say, King Uriel's group was even faster than ours. They are lining the forest, between the meadow under the castle. They are waiting for us to catch up.'

I nodded, running forward and jumping, my paws taking down a vampire as I bit off his head and he turned to ash under me. Looking back at Vale, his mouth was in a frown, looking ahead of us.

'Mom has reached the edge of forest as well. They are pausing. The castle has been shut up completely. She is waiting for us.'

I nodded and stepped back to his side. He ran his hands through my fur but it was wet and matted with blood. Vale didn't seem to mind. There was a worm of doubt that was weaseling its way through his emotions. That we wouldn't be able to take down the whole castle and everything in it. Not without sacrificing our pups lives in the process.

'Whatever happens in there, Z, you need to get Reagan and Rowan out. Keep them safe.'

'We both will, Vale. Together. We will get them out and this whole place will be destroyed, Auri will see to it.'

He hummed but the look on his face didn't exactly make me feel like he believed me. We had a couple spare vampires we ran into but other than that, it was just a

straight jog to the edge of the forest. Hector was standing in human form, his arms crossed over his chest. Auri was sitting on a gnarled tree branch that was sticking up from the earth.

"We can hear chanting. We don't know the type of magic that they are planning. If it's something that they plan on lighting the whole forest on fire or the ground is going to explode the moment we step out there."

"We can't take out the castle either. Not without risking the kids. I won't do that and neither will Uriel." Auri added to Hector's assessment.

Vale crossed his arms over his chest as well. "So what do we do? We can't just stay here. We do have the exits covered. All of the secret ones and now we have surrounded the forest."

"Someone needs to trigger the magic." Auri slapped her knees and stood up. "Can't rest too long. The muscles get tight."

Hector growled. "Auri."

She snorted. "You know it needs to be me. I'm the only one who could handle a multi-person casting session from those old biddies."

Taking a breath, we all watched as she rolled her shoulders. Suddenly, the runes on her back started to shake and move. The outer rim of her runes, probably sixth or maybe the seventh ring seemed to float off her skin before disappearing into the air. Two more followed before Hector put a hand on her shoulder.

"That should be enough. Let's not go lower than four just yet."

She nodded and took his hand, kissing the palm. I looked at Vale but he was focused on the castle ahead.

"I'll give the all clear when I feel their magic dissipating."

I stepped up to the edge of the forest as well, looking at the castle. My ears could just barely pick up the chanting but it felt more like a trick of the wind than anything.

"How will you get them to attack you though, if it's just you?"

Auri chuckled. "If Oran knows what's best, I'm the only one he should be focused on. If not, I'll make a fuss. I at least know how to do that." She cracked her knuckles. "I'm not that old."

Without even a second thought, Auri stepped out of the tree line. I shifted, standing next to Vale. He took my hand and squeezed it, hard. Hector stood on my other side, hand on my shoulder.

"Don't worry. Your Mom is something else. She knows what she is doing."

As she stepped out, the ground around her started to ripple with every step she took. It looked like it was turning to quicksand but it was only where she stepped. Her laughter filled the quiet and she shook her head.

"This is the best the witches have to offer? Please. You lot were useless from the beginning. I don't know why we even bothered!"

Her foot slammed down and the entire ground dried up around her. It cracked and looked like the aftermath of when lava pools cooled. It was dark and solid and as she

stepped now, her foot met the hard ground without the rippling effect.

"Where they making it like quicksand?"

"That's what it seems like."

The sky darkened around us and Auri laughed again, throwing her hands up. "This is what you can do? Bring it!"

Suddenly, lightening came down. It wasn't one or two strikes either. It was an onslaught of lightening that shattered ear drums and made many of our side take steps back into the forest. However, through the bright flashes, you could barely make out Auri. She had her hands up still, dancing between the strikes. As though they were nothing. One came straight for her but it was a simple move as she danced around the strike. I felt Hector's hand tighten on my shoulder but his face showed nothing as he watched.

The onslaught continued until the strikes became less and less. Auri stopped dancing as she made it about halfway through clearing before the front of the castle. She raised up her arms against and I heard her speaking to the sky but I couldn't quite hear what she was saying.

"Alright. Get ready." Hector said as he shifted into his wolf form.

I followed suit, not exactly sure of what the plan was. Vale stayed in his human form but his hand instantly went to my back. Hector let out a howl and you could see along the tree line that our forces had stepped up, ready to take the castle. Uriel was stepping out first into the clearing, his mouth moving but I could hear anything coming out of his mouth.

The ground under us rumbled and I watched, in pure awe and horror, as the stone face of the castle started to melt away. It started from the top and dripped down the side of the castle until it started to melt like a river down the sides. As the top disintegrated, the next floors were starting to be visible. You could see some of the people inside the castle, shocked as well as they moved out of range. Uriel's fey moved in as they started to attack with long range spells and arrows.

At our level, the castle doors burst open and vampires, with witches behind them, poured out of the castle. That was our signal. Hector growled and raced forward, Vale running after him and me followed. Together, we slammed into the next wave of Oran's men. These were actually Oran's men. It took much more time and coordination to defeat even just one. Some were being buffed by a witch while others took on the roll of attack magic. I'm not sure the deal that was struck but King Uriel and his forces focused on the mages.

Hector shifted to yell at us. "Let us take care of these guys! Follow Auri! Get inside the castle! Get the pups!"

I didn't need to be told twice. Vale shifted next to me into his wolf form and we both made a break for it. Jumping over and around the fights that others were having. We closed the distance between us and Auri quickly but she was dealing with mages that were stopping her from entering the castle. Five of them built a shield to stop magic while the others behind them slung spells at her.

'Let us take care of the front line shield.'

Vale's voice filtered into my mind and I say Auri turn and nod. Her eyes were still that golden fire as she started to

focus on the door. I matched pace with Vale and we jumped the front five witches. They were holding the shield for magical attacks but there was nothing in regards to a physical attack. We easily knocked them down. With their concentration broken, the shield they were holding broke. Vale took a head of one while I impaled my claws in the chest of another.

'Get back!' Auri screamed in our heads.

Not needing to be told twice, Vale and I jumped and ran back. Behind us, an explosion rocked the entire castle, fire engulfing the witches, the door, and the entire front of the castle. Stones from the wall fell and the door was nothing more than ash on the ground. King Uriel walked up to us and whistled.

"Well, that was a bit much, Auri."

She chuckled. "I'm not about to half ass recusing my pups, Uriel."

He nodded and looked at the two of us. "You ready? I think we can leave the rest to the outer team."

I nodded and Vale shifted, taking the sword King Uriel was holding out for him.

"Let's grab the pups and kill Oran. Let's end this once and for all."



Comments



Vote (22.6K)

