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"Over here are offices and study rooms if you do not feel like studying in your own bedroom or if you have a group project, this is as far as outsiders can go. Make sure you get permission from me before bringing anyone here though. There is a library down here as well. If there's any materials that you need that you don't find in there, again let Audrina know and she will make sure that you receive what you need. The rest of the warriors use these rooms for strategy sessions. Sometimes for mock missions, other times for real missions. We treat them with the same level of seriousness. Any time you are sent out as a warrior, we want you to have as much planning and knowledge as possible. What we do for the kingdom is usually the most life threatening job, which is why we train the way we do. Being prepared with contingency plans is part of that training."

I nod and let that sink in as we continue to walk down the white and gray hallway to another set of double doors; these are only slightly smaller than the entrance doors that we came through originally, but just as ornate.

"Now, out here is your Recreation space." He stopped

and turned to me, looking for my reaction. I actually stumbled at the sight behind the bunk house. "We have an olympic sized swimming pool over there, we have a hot tub and sauna, which you will use on a regular basis when you first start your training. It will help you recover much more quickly than anything else. There is an outdoor workout area complete with all weights and equipment that you would need, if you don't find something that you need or want please let us know, we'll make sure that you get it. On the other side of the barrier there is an assortment of climbing and rock wall equipment, something similar to your obstacle course back at Blue Crescent. I'm sure that you will feel quite at home here. This is not much different than what you are used to."

I take a look around and I still get the country club vibe from everything. The pool is crystal clear with no leaves or bugs or anything floating around it. There are no lounge chairs surrounding it for relaxation though. The hot tub looks like it was custom built into the ground to hold at least 20 very large werewolves in it. The steam lazily rising from the surface is inviting. I can see a huge hedge where he pointed to the workout space and just beyond that I can see the top of a wooden structure that must be the climbing equipment he was talking about.

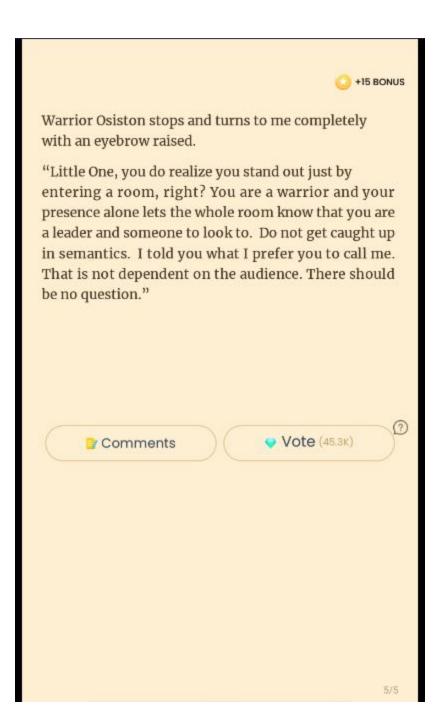
Warrior Osiston breaks me from my thoughts. "We eat dinner every night at 8:00 p.m. Sharp. if you miss dinner then you missed dinner, the kitchen is closed promptly at 9:00. and lights out at 10:00 p.m. there is a wake up call every day at 4:00 a.m. You are expected to be down at breakfast by 5:00 a.m. and we are out on the training fields by 6:00 a.m. The rules are strict and there are punishments for missing time. We do not train our warriors to be lazy or make excuses. We train them to be the best of the best and the best are not late, our lunches are staggered so you will get your schedule on a daily basis. By the time you get up to your room tonight you will have your training schedule as well as your school schedule. You will be assigned one of our newer recruits to escort you around for the first day. After the first day you are expected to understand your way around and be fully capable of making it to your classes and to your training times on time and prepared. Do you understand?

"Yes sir. Do we train on Saturdays and Sundays as well? Is the schedule the same?"

"We train 7 days a week. Saturdays and Sundays are a little bit different but there is still training. You do get free time on one of those two days to do as you please here on the grounds. You must earn your right to free time off the grounds, and you are in what we call a probationary period. Just know that our training compound is about as remote as you can get from every other training facility on the territory. It is also heavily monitored so do not think that you will be getting in or out of the compound unchecked. Others have tried and failed miserably. And if you are caught just know that your discretions will be put on public display."

"Yes sir." I gulp, that must be a warning to not try and sneak out to see Sierra or the guys. Which was actually something that hadn't crossed my mind until he said it. I could have Sierra here to study though, that will be nice.

I take another deep breath and have a thought. "While I am here, what do I call you? Obviously, not many people get to call you Warrior Osiston. Should I just stick with 'sir?' I don't want to look like I have special privileges. I'm already here too young, get to leave the compound for classes and have Alpha Reggie personally escorting me. I know I haven't seen anyone yet, but that doesn't mean people aren't watching me right now. I spend enough of my time being the freak, so anything that doesn't make me stand out would be helpful."



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He turns and continues walking across the training grounds toward the hedge he pointed out at that weight area. I let out a sigh. That really wasn't helpful information and yet the most fatherly 'don't care what others think' advice I've ever gotten. Now, that's not going to stop me from looking over my shoulder to see who's staring at the freak. I keep following silently behind him, not wanting to miss anything.

"Also, in two weeks, Queen Luna Anne has requested your presence at the castle. You have been excused from training that day to prepare and she will send over your wardrobe."

"Wait, What?" He just threw that out like he was telling me the grass was green. "You said 'requested', but it sounds like I don't get a choice in going." I laugh a little. "Do you know what she wants with me?"

"I was not given that information. I was just told to let you know you will be spending most of the day and evening with her."

I nod wondering if she wants to check up on me for

Luna Ava. I hope being excused from training for the Luna Queen or the Alpha King is a thing that regularly happens around here. I don't need another reason for the rest of the warriors to look at me like a freak. And why in the hell do I need a 'wardrobe'? Is there a dress code for being in the castle? Ugh, too many questions.

"This is our weight center. As I said you will get your schedule by the end of the night. We have all of our warriors staggered around the grounds during training, this allows us to constantly evaluate skills in a smaller, more concentrated group. Your groups will rotate as well so you don't get comfortable with certain people. We want you to be versatile and able to join any warrior group for any type of mission. You will eventually have specialties that you will focus on as you move up through the program and you will notice some of our seasoned warriors are more focused in their skills. We have recon teams, extraction teams, computer and tech specialists, and weapons experts on top of our very skilled fighters. You can start to specialize once we have turned you into an amazing warrior."

I just keep nodding, this is the most amazing thing I have ever seen. I must look like an over excited bobblehead at this point. Everything he just said has

me almost jumping out of my skin. I can't wait to get started. We continue walking through the hedged weight area and back to the ropes course.

"Oh hell yes! I can't wait to get on this thing! It's gotta be at least three times the size of what we have at Blue Crescent." I walk past him, I can't help myself. This is going to be my new playground.

This course has to be at least two football fields long and runs in a big oval around the perimeter so you make the trek down and back. It is full of your basic climbing ropes and cargo nets, except nothing seems to be closer than ten feet off the ground and there aren't safety nets to catch you if you fall. There are also various sized wood planks and pillars to climb across or over. There is a rope bridge that has to be 40 feet in the air and it is a makeshift bridge so there is only a signal one inch thick rope to walk on and a rope above to hang on to while you climb across. The distance between these obstacles tells me it's set up for guys like Warrior Osiston to struggle. I'm going to have to get creative with some of them to get through, considering I'm barely tall enough to come up to his elbow.

"I'm glad you're so excited Little One, because this is your first test. Your training starts now. We will gain a baseline for where your body is at after being in the hospital for a month. This will also determine how your training schedule will start. Over there please." He points to a set of three logs lying parallel to each other. The end at the starting line is in the ground, the opposite end is elevated to about ten feet in the air making them look like complicated, rounded ramps.

Getting closer to the course the obstacles are spread out too, so there is a fair amount of running in between.

"Is there an objective or a goal I'm trying to reach with this test?"

"For now, just run the course and complete it, once I have a baseline we will talk objectives."

I fight an eye roll, he must get some weird satisfaction at not giving straight answers. It bugs me to not know what I'm working for. 'Completion' isn't really a goal, that's the idea with any course.

Once I am set up where the startline has been worn into the dirt, I look over my shoulder to let him know that I am ready and then back at my target, I can't let him catch me off guard with anything. I have to assume every interaction is some kind of test here.

