

Chapter 0204

'Skylar you are formally invited to the Alpha King's Annual Elder's Conference and Ball as Prince Alexander's escort. A car will pick you up promptly at seven in the morning to bring you to the royal packhouse to begin preparations for the day. You will be excused from training Saturday and Sunday as the ball will run late and your presence is needed for the full duration. I look forward to seeing you for your dress fitting this Saturday. I hope all is going well with your training and you are settling into our pack. I look forward to catching up with you. 1

Luna Anne.'

I read through the letter and then read it out to my friends.

"What does she mean by catching up with you?" Audrina snarks over my shoulder and I jump a little. I didn't even notice her coming up behind me.

"Is that really any of your business?" Lillian asks and I raise my eyebrows at her. That was either a really brave question or really stupid.

"It is if one of my team members is going to be missing training."

"Missing training has nothing to do with Skylar catching up with the Luna Queen. You were obviously eavesdropping

enough to hear that the Luna Queen has invited Skylar to the Royal packhouse this Saturday and next so she will be missing training. That's really all the information you need, isn't it?" Lillian is playing with fire, but she's not wrong.

Audrina looks at Lillian for a brief second and clearly makes a decision. "If Skylar is going to be a part of my team, she needs to be present for all of the required training. I am already forced to put up with her frequent absences since she hasn't had the capacity to even finish school yet."

"Are you serious? She's ahead by two years and probably smarter than the rest of us combined..." Wyatt adds in.

"Let's not get carried away. Audrina, the Luna Queen has requested my presence, there's not really anything you or I can do about that, is there?"

"What does she mean you'll be Prince Alexander's escort?" I think she's whining now.

"I'm pretty sure that part is the most self-explanatory."
Nathaniel responds.

I cut them off with my hand as all my friends seem to want to keep stepping in to defend me. They won't always be there to buffer the animosity she seems to radiate around me.

"Prince Xander and I are friends and she clearly wants me at this event. Since he hasn't found his mate yet he is vulnerable to all of the social climbing people in

attendance. By having an escort it allows him a level of protection from them and anyone else who may want to cause trouble or harm. The protection becomes two fold since I am also a warrior.”


“You aren’t an Elite Warrior yet, don’t get ahead of yourself.”

“I didn’t say ‘elite warrior’ just warrior, which I am and plenty of people here can attest to that. Having a warrior assigned as his escort allows other warriors to focus on the King and Queen’s protection if they aren’t in the same social groups all evening. It’s a strategic move and less conspicuous having someone closer to his age attend with him than having a guard flanking him all night.”

“I still want to know what you did to get all of this special treatment from everyone.”

“It’s not special treatment. I worked my ass off to get here just like everyone else. My circumstances are not normal, but if it was necessary for you to know more than you do, Warrior Osiston would have given it to you. Like he said yesterday, at any given time a third of us have orders that may conflict with what the group is doing. Do you trust him? 2

“Of course I do, he is my mentor. Warrior Brogen saved me after my pack was attacked and brought me here. What I want to know is how you got him to tell you his first name and let you use it? How did you become friends with the Alpha Prince so quickly? You talk about social climbing people wanting to get to him. How do we know you’re not


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one of those people?"

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Chapter 0205

My friends are just watching the conversation like a tennis match. If I was on the outside looking in, I would probably find it very funny.

"In all honesty, you don't know. But, I have clearly been looked into by Warrior Osisten, the Alpha King and whoever else handles all of that and been found to be trustworthy for this job. If you don't agree with the decision, I suggest you take it up with that team. I will continue to follow orders." I stood up and grabbed what's left of my food. I know I need to finish it, but I'm done talking to her and she won't leave so I have to.


I grab the shaker bottle from my bag too so I can take it into the kitchens to Stella and Jack and take up just a little more time.

When I get back to the table Lillian has my bag and all my friends are waiting for me, Lillian has a big sh*t eating grin on her face.

"You should have seen her after you walked off and basically dismissed her. She isn't done trying to imply that you shouldn't be here. She's just mad because she isn't the favorite she thought she was. She's had a bit of a hero worship problem with Warrior Brogen and sticks to him like a shadow. He has never treated her any differently, even as

a team leader, she's treated the same as the rest of them, I just don't think she sees it."


"It is a little weird though," Nathaniel says as we start walking back out to the open space behind the bunkhouse. "It's almost like she has a crush on him, but that's impossible with the brand. We don't get any of those emotions. Love, lust, infatuation, desire of any kind is overridden by the warrior brand. No one dates here, no secret hook-ups. We just don't get those desires at all. We can't afford to have the drama that relationships can cause, especially being with each other twenty four seven."

"Maybe it's from before she got her brand. She remembers him saving her, it could be just that, hero-worship." I say. "Does anyone know anything about her pack or what happened? Maybe she lost her mate. If she was eighteen, it could have been shortly after finding him and she transferred her feelings in her grief and that's the last of that type of emotion she remembers." 

"It still doesn't excuse the way she keeps treating you, so stop trying to make me feel bad for her." Lillian snaps playfully at me.

"I'm not. I just want to get to the bottom of it. I can't control how she acts, but if I understand why she acts that way I can control my reactions and responses."

"Are you sure you're only fifteen? That sounds like something my mom would say." Nathaniel laughs.

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“When you spend a lot of time teaching pups, you learn to look at the bigger picture and not react emotionally, no matter how bad you want to. I won’t give anyone control over my emotions. It’s the one thing that no one can take from me, my control on how I react.”

He’s saved the necessity of responding when Warrior Nickolas steps in front of us. “We are sparring as wolves today, so we won’t divide like we normally do. We are working on evasion and submissions today. There should be no injuries. The goal is to capture your opponent with no way for them to escape or need medical attention from you. You should always have at least one person to interrogate, especially when they are attacking. Head to the green and Warrior Brogen and I will divide you up.”

We all start moving and I can feel myself start to get anxious. This means I will have to change in front of these people and I don’t want to have to answer any questions. I can feel my breathing pick up as we move closer to the open space he called the green.

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Chapter 0206

"Hey Midge, you alright? You look a little pale." Wyatt asks, getting Lillian and Nathaniel's attention too.

"No. I mean yeah, I'm good." I can't look him in the eye though.

"You can shift, right? I mean, I guess you wouldn't be here if you couldn't yet." Nathaniel says to himself more than to me.

"Yeah, no, I'm okay, I can shift. I just don't really like changing in front of people. I'll be fine, I just wasn't expecting it, that's all." I take a deep breath trying to control my breathing. I can get through this, I have to get through this. I chose to keep the scars when I was given the chance to get rid of them, now I have to live with my decision. One more big deep breath as we all set our bags down and turn to get instructions.

"Alright, those of you that were at trials got a glimpse of this technique. Those of you who were unable to go this is what we are trying to accomplish, Skylar, step up." Nathaniel calls out and looks directly at me. I stop breathing and freeze. "I did not stutter, move!" I jump like my ass was bit and move forward. "Lose the shirt, you're going to shift mid fight. The less clothes we have to replace the better." ²

I turn and slowly take my shirt off with shaky hands. I keep my eyes closed as I turn back towards him, take another

deep breath, open my eyes and move to the center of the circle towards Warrior Nickolas.


I can hear murmurs, but nothing any of them are saying. I keep my focus on Nickolas in case he plans on throwing some kind of surprise attack after obviously getting me emotionally disoriented.

"We are going to spar for 5 minutes, you must stay in the circle the entire time. When I shift you do. Your one goal is to evade capture. Do you understand your assignment?" I nod, it's all I've got to give at this moment.

He doesn't spare me much more than that moment before he starts to circle me like a predator does his prey. His eyes are calculating, he's sizing me up even though we have fought a few times now. I have changed a bit since the locker room and haven't actually done any kind of sparring for over a month now. As the thought hits me, I realize I am nervous for the first time in a very long time. But I can't decide if it is a good thing or a bad thing. I'm weak and out of shape, but I have enough training that muscle memory should kick in and help me out.

Don't worry sweet girl, we will do this together. My wolf reminds me she's here with me. I'm not alone.

Save your energy as much as possible. We have no idea when he's going to shift and that is the one thing we are lacking experience in, shifting and fighting immediately following.

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No sooner did I say that than Warrior Nickloas charged at me. I blocked his arms but wasn't quick enough to stop the leg sweep that followed and I started to fall towards my back. I used the momentum to grab at his arm and pull him back with me throwing him back over my shoulder as I rolled backwards, he was forced to release his grip and tuck and roll forward. I was quicker to my feet and stepped back. I wasn't going to charge at him yet. I need to get him to use up some of his energy first, especially before he forces us to shift.

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