Chapter 256-260



Chapter 0256

I just huff a laugh, he knows me too well already. "What if I wake you up and we go running together? I have to get my five miles in, I can't slack because I'm hanging out with you. That will just give more ammunition to..." I stop myself when I realize that we are not the only people in the room he set me down in.

"To whom, Little One? Who's giving you trouble?" Warrior Osiston asks, an angry look on his face I have never seen directed my way before.

I just shake my head. "It's nothing, really. I just have a different schedule and training set up than the rest of the warriors and some think that it is favoritism. I also get pulled from things in order to spend time with the Royal family, not everyone is happy about that, especially if they think it's an assignment and they deserve the privilege since they have been here longer. It's nothing like my pack situation, it's just jealousy and a lack of information.

Really." I don't want any of them intervening on my behalf, it just makes things worse.

Warrior Osiston just nods, hopefully in understanding, only time will tell.

"Let's get you changed and into bed. Boys scooch!" Luna Anne shoos everyone from the room and I giggle watching her handle all these big men, who respond like little boys.

She has me sit at the vanity and helps me pull all the pins and elastics from my hair. She points to pajamas that have been laid out for me and shows me the bathroom so I can wash the make-up and stress of the day off.

She is still in my room waiting in one of the cushy armchairs in front of the massive fireplace, seemingly lost in a book. She sets the book aside, but doesn't move from her spot when she addresses me.

"If you really do want to go for a run in the morning, please take Xander and Oscar and be back by 8am for breakfast. Some of the Elders and Alphas are staying in the guest wing and based on their reaction to you tonight, will be less than pleasant knowing you are staying in the family wing."

"Why would they even know that? Are they really that nosey?"

"Are you really asking that question?" She laughs at me. "
They all probably know who is staying in each room on each
floor and how many guests came. Many of them seem to
think the higher up you are the better the rooms are. They
are all identical, I know because I designed them myself, but
no one will listen to reason so I let them have their
squabble. They all saw you leave with Xander, which is also
a novelty, he does not leave with a woman as a general
rule. It causes too much drama. So you both will be the talk
of breakfast, naturally."

I just roll my eyes and sigh. "Please tell me that I am not Xander's female mate. You would know that right? I don't know if I could handle all of the stupid politics like you do. No one would have teeth left." I sag onto the cloud soft comforter on my bed and my eyes instantly get droopy with how comfortable the crisp white linens are.

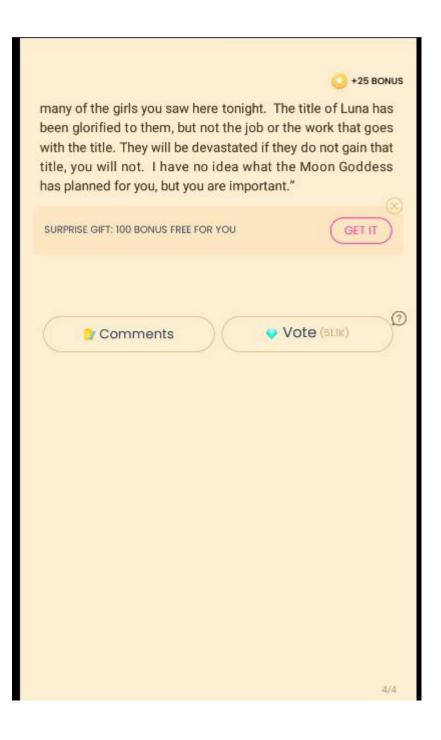
"Oh, I don't think so, no. You are already a part of this family by blood, there would be no reason to pair you to Xander. But, I agree with Oscar, you have great potential to be a leader in whichever pack you end up in."

"But, I don't know if I want to be a Luna." Even to myself I sound a little panicked. "That's a lot to put on someone's shoulders."

"Don't you already do that though?"

"I just serve to protect my pack. That's all."

"Spoken like a Luna." She smiles, like she's trying to rile me up. I grumble under my breath, which only makes her smile wider. "You also train your pups, you keep all of your future leaders in line. Those boys would follow you to the ends of the earth, you know that right? You clearly put up with so much more than anyone knows and did it in the name of protecting your pack. All while maintaining a training schedule that rivals Osiston's and every possible advanced clas you could take at school. It's what any true Luna would do. But I also don't want to get your hopes up either, like



I let out a little whine, it sounds petulant even to my ears. She just complimented me in the best possible way and all I can think of is when I am done training here, I just want to go home and be with my pack. By the time I get back though all the guys would be of age and probably found their mates and will have no use for me. That thought also makes me sad. I have these big dreams and I am following them without regret, but I also don't want to have this divide between me and Mateo and the rest of the guys because I followed my dreams. The thoughts are overwhelming and I feel tired all over again.

"Sleep, Little One, you have one more day with us before you go back to reality." She walks over looking almost angelic in the dim light from the lamp next to the bed. She tucks me in and kisses me on the forehead and I can't stop the single tear that slips out. Even Mary wasn't allowed to tuck me in when I was little. Luna Anne pretends not to notice. "Sleep tight, sweet girl." With that she turns and walks out of the room. I reach over and turn off the light. I think I was asleep before my head even hit the pillow.

I get up the next morning and before I can even step out of my room to head to find Xander there is a knock at my door.

"Hold on." I say trying to secure and elastic in my hair while opening the door at the same time.

I open it to find Xander and Oscar in workout gear ready to go. I just smile at them, grab my phone and head out.

I sent a message to Sierra yesterday telling her I would be here, but I wasn't sure how all of this worked. Would she be allowed to see me here in the castle? I shot her another message as we walked out letting her know we were going for a run around the castle property. I don't know if she'll get it, but I figured she would at least see it and maybe we could meet up today and I could describe all of the drama that went down last night.

No sooner were we outside on the back lawn did I get a message back from her. She used a lot of four letter words for me waking her up this early without notice and she will meet me for breakfast since it's not an official function she can come over to the castle.

It is so early that the sun has barely started peaking over the mountain range and the mist from the dew casts an eerie fog over the grass.

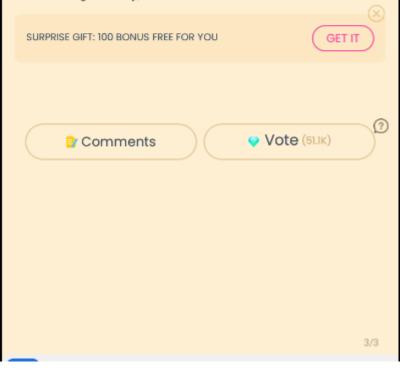
"Well, at least it will be hard to tell who's out here running, just in case your fan club is stalking you from their windows." I laugh at Xander.

"No worries there. All of their windows face the front of the castle. Why do you think we cam out this way?" He laughs and Oscar and I join in.

As we jog the first mile we are a bit more leisurely about it,



just warming up really. I get to know Oscar more. He's the son of the Royal Delta, which is perfect for him. He will be able to best protect the Royal pack and his motivations will be higher since his mates are the future Alpha and Luna. He has always thought he was just gay, but now that he knows they have a female mate waiting for them he's interested to find out if they are both just mated to Xander or if the three of them are mates. I never thought about that before. I have heard of people having more than one mate, it's not rare, but it's not super common either. I never stopped to consider how there might be different dynamics in those multi person relationships. That would be something fascinating to study, if I had free time.



The land around the castle is breathtaking. We even made it all the way to the other side of the massive lake that I saw in the picture in Dakota's room. I found the fallen log and had Xander take my picture on it to send to the guys. It's not much, but something to let them know I am thinking of them and trying to connect from a distance.

Xander also had to be a guy and made sure I took a picture sandwiched in between both him and Oscar so he could send his own picture. I felt guilty for about three seconds and then thought it was hilarious. He will most definitely get responses before I do.

I know I'm not supposed to have outside contact with people while I'm in training, but it has been eating me alive that I haven't been able to contact them and I haven't had an opportunity to respond to their letters, which were mostly apologies for not being there for me and protecting me. Based on the tone of the letters, there's no way they didn't see me at my worst that night. I don't know how to let them know it isn't their fault. Kaley is at fault and whoever else she talked into inflicting the pain. I am at fault for not standing up for myself and just putting her in her place when I know that I can.

That is a mistake I will never make again. No matter what her father threatens, I will not stand by while she harms and tortures and threatens members of my pack. She has no right, even if she is Luna, no one should treat people the way she does. It will never go unanswered ever again.

We finish our run by racing past the crazy maze Alpha Reggie took me in to tell me about my connection to the Royal family and up the stairs to the massive landing outside the main entryway.

I won, of course. There was no way I was going to let either of them beat me. It was fun to have healthy non-judged competition between friends, the kind that makes you smile whether you win or lose.

"Sh*t, you are fast for having such short legs Midge." Oscar is panting, but I love that he picked up on the nickname the rest of the warriors have started to call me. Something about having a nickname signifies that you have been accepted. All the guys have one for me and it feels like something personal between us.

"I wasn't kidding, she's a bada*s." Xander is panting behind him.

"Do you do that run every day?" Oscar asks.

"Not everyday, but I do run in some capacity everyday. I like to change it up, otherwise your body gets complacent." I shrug like it's common knowledge, because it should be to someone at his level.

"It's official, Xander, I'm sorry, but I'm going to need to leave early every morning and train with your girl here, otherwise I'm going to get my a*s beat." We are all laughing as we head in the doors not really paying attention to our surroundings.

"Prince Alexander!" A shrill voice basically shouts."Where have you been? We have been looking for you everywhere this morning, you left so abruptly." A brunette is talking and a blonde is following close behind. I know she means that we left early last night, but her word choice could make people believe that Xander spent the night with her or both of them. I have to hand it to her, she knows what she's doing.

"Skylar and I decided to go for a run this morning after we got up, you know, keeping up training and all, no matter what frivolous things we have to do. Not all of us can sleep in for those extra beauty hours." Okay, so Xander has some game too.

I just step back closer to Oscar to let Xander handle these clowns, I'm not in the mood, it's too early for these catty b* tches.

"Well maybe we can sit together at breakfast this morning since you're all done entertaining and have the freedom to

sit with people closer in rank to yourself."

Why do these tramps keep insinuating that I am lower than they are? If they have no rank at all then I outrank them in general. I can feel my temper rising to the surface. I take a deep breath before speaking, I will not let this girl rile me up, she isn't worth it. I don't know what came over me, but I stepped forward and took Xandar's arm.

"Actually, Xander, we should go shower and change. I know your mother was expecting us down right at eight for breakfast. At this rate with all of the chit chat we will probably only have time for one shower." I grab his arm tighter and wink at the brunette and drag Xander away willingly, Oscar trying and failing to hold in his laughter as we make our way to the elevator.

"Yep, Luna Midge, I will never piss you off as long as I am alive." Oscar is openly laughing as the elevator is closing on us. Xander still hasn't said anything.

"Xander, say something. Did I do something wrong, cross a line? She was just pissing me off and the only way I could think to shut her up was to imply that we were sleeping together." I tried not to outwardly cringe at that, it was so far out of my depth, I hope I didn't embarrass him. I rub my hands over my sweaty face to try and rid some of the blush I know is creeping up my neck and my cheeks.

He pulls me into a sweaty hug. "You did not cross any line, but do you even have any idea what you told her?" He leans

me back, just far enough to look me in the eyes.

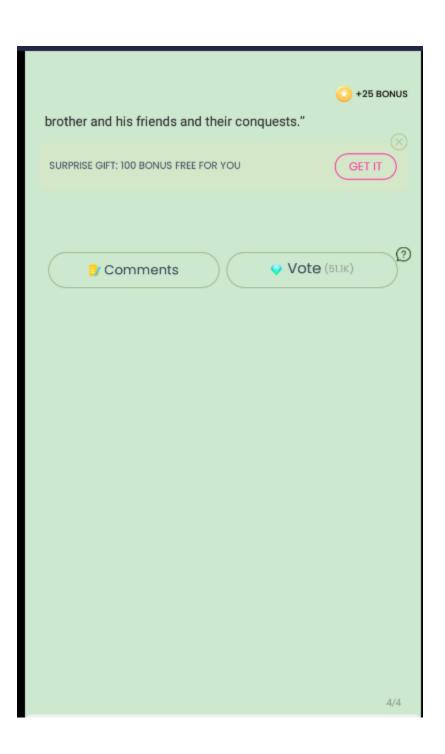
"Mostly, yes. The concept I implied, I fully understand. Any actual real world knowledge of any of that stuff, not a clue." I smile sheepishly and shrug my shoulders at him before he pulls me back into a hug.

"Sometimes I forget how young and innocent you are. There are so many things you have gone through, that no one your age should even have to think about and then normal teenage things, like s*x, you are still so innocent."

"Oh, damn, I never thought about that!" Oscar almost shouts. "You speak in a war meeting like a 60 year old seasoned veteran, but you're not, you're what fifteen? You're just a baby. Have you even had your first kiss yet?"

I felt Xander's arms tighten around me and his breath catch like he's afraid to know the answer.

"Not romantically, no. It's mostly been like what you've seen Xander do. Kisses on the cheek or forehead. All more brotherly than anything. You have to remember, until a year ago no one hung out with me or even acknowledged my presence. It was an unspoken rule by my bully. She made sure people gave me a wide berth. If they tried to engage with me they got hurt, and I couldn't always intervene so it was just easier to keep my distance, it kept them safer. My brother and the rest of the guys didn't even acknowledge me until last year when Sierra showed up. So my romantic experience has been vicarious observations through my



"You are really going to have to give up this girl's name sometime, Midge. The more I learn about what you went through, the more I want to rip her hair out one strand at a time." Xander growls into my hair before he takes a deep breath in and lets it out slowly. "How is it possible that you aren't my mate, but your scent has the ability to calm me down almost as well as Oscar's?"

"That's a random change of subject." I observe, still in his embrace, face buried in his chest. He doesn't seem keen on letting me go anytime soon.

"It's true though, I noticed it last night too." Oscar adds in. "
When Bastian decided he could be a d*ck when Xander left.
I was so close to you, your scent kept me level headed, but
you aren't our mate are you?" I shake my head no.

"Maybe that's your ability, the special blood thing that you get from being the first born female in our bloodline."

Xander observes. "I'll have to ask dad, I didn't even register that's what was happening until now, but the fact that it works on Oscar too, it has to be something. Only a mate's scent is supposed to have that effect."

The elevator door dings as we reach our floor.

"I know this is going to sound weird as hell, but Midge, go grab some clothes, you're going to get ready in our room this morning."

"What?" Both Oscar and I speak at the same time.

"Is that really necessary?" I ask.

"There isn't a guard for you and after what happened downstairs, people are already milling about the castle, it would make me feel better if you stayed close.

Oscar looks a little defeated and I can imagine after all the s *x talk I know why.

"What if I promise to not leave my room until you and Oscar come to get me? I feel like a third wheel and that is not a place I want to be in. Go do what you need to do." I'm pleading, both for me and for Oscar. "You can even text me when you are on your way, I won't answer the door unless I know you're coming."

"Oh, he'll be coming alright." Oscar mumbles. I know I turned three shades of red, but I pretend to ignore it.

"We need to talk your dad into getting me branded so I can mindlink, this would be so much easier." I rub my temples as I walk towards my door. I will not get in the way of the very little time they have together. "I will not come out. I swear. Text me when you are at my door, I will be quick, but take your time and do what you need to do." I wink at both of them and slide through my door and lock it before anyone can argue.

Knowing what they are doing just a room away has me thinking about who I will be with, who I could be with. The problem is, I only see my guys. My brother is not a turn on for me and Sam is for sure taken by Sierra. It's only a matter of time, but Oliver and Cameron and Dakota. Their faces swim in my head as I strip off my sweaty clothes and step into the steaming shower. I wouldn't even be able to choose if the Moon Goddess gave me a choice. They all protect me in different ways, make me feel safe, and loved. More than just a sister or friend. How would that work? Would she make me choose, or give me three mates? How would I even keep up with that? Alpha's are known for their s *x drives. And once they find their Luna, you may not see them for a week. What would it be like to have two or three men like that? To have someone who will be that obsessed with me and my body sounds amazing and terrifying all at the same time. What would they do first? Would they be gentle, ease me into intimacy or would they be rough forcing dominance over me? Both thoughts have me panting to myself because they aren't all bad thoughts. I should be getting clean from our long run, but I can't get the idea of someone owning my body, dominating me in a way no one has before.

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