



Chapter 0468

Skylar POV

I am roasting. That is the first thing I think when my brain starts to come back to life and I am sore, but not where I thought I would be. I slowly open my eyes expecting the twins to be smothered around me, but it's not citrus and cinnamon that I smell. What I smell is sweeter like a tulip, then I get a hint of fresh cut grass, then pine.

I am not in my room or the twin's room. I slowly open my eyes and I can't move my head and almost jump for a second when another scent hits me. Jena's sharp and warm nutmeg scent. The spice blends with the others surrounding me and I am almost overwhelmed. [1](#)

I can feel my heartrate pick up. I know Jena is here with me, but where is here?

"Jena. Hey Jena. I can't move. Where are we?"

"Huh?" Her groggy voice comes through the link, but she's awake enough to respond through the link.

I can hear rustling next to me and then a sharp intake of breath. She's stuck too.

"Who else is here? I don't recognize any of these scents, but they don't smell hostile. My wolf says we're safe."

"Mine too." I reply, but given our history Jena and I need to see, feel and hear that we are actually safe.

"Okay, I have a headache now, are you two okay?" Mateo's voice comes low across the room that I am now realizing is dark.

"Mateo, what's going on? Where are we?" I try to keep the panic down, he's here too, we aren't alone.

"You're in one of the guest rooms, we couldn't get your new fan club to let go of you two." He chuckles. "You have no idea how complicated that was to get you guys through the trapdoor. Speaking of which, we need to talk about that design, Shorty. We should be able to carry an injured, or in this case, unconscious, pack member in and out of the tunnels." 1

I sat up slowly, not wanting to disturb the little pup next to me, Lily. "That was actually the prime reason for the design. The only reason to go to the packhouse would be to harm the Alpha and Luna or to kidnap them or someone from the Alpha's family. So it worked exactly as it was supposed to. If a pack member was so injured they needed to be carried, they could ultimately stay in the tunnels safely, heal and get the medical attention they needed and then join the fight again if possible. It is designed to have supplies, we just haven't gotten that far yet. We had to work in secret, obviously we did our jobs well." 1

"Yep, I think Cam and Kota are going to have some words with you. They aren't used to things slipping under their noses." 1

"Luna Ava, Delta Gwen and I are sure that someone in our ranks is double crossing us and they are close to you guys,

we have to prove it though, and like everything else around here that is proving to be the hard part.”

He stretches and I really look around for the first time noticing I am surrounded on all sides, by pups and Jena. We are lucky the Luna keeps king sized beds in all of the guest rooms. I have Lily right next to me, little Stephanie is on my other side and Ronan is sprawled awkwardly across my legs, but he is out cold, so he must be comfortable.

Jena has Sebastian across her chest, which explains why she hasn't sat up yet. And Juliana on her other side. I look back at Mateo and he is wincing through stretching.

“Did you sleep in that chair?”

“Yeah. Neither of you have been away from us for a night. I still don't know why she has them, but Jena has nightmares and I didn't want her to wake up panicking from whatever memories and then also from being in a different room. You clearly weren't prepared to wake up here either. I don't know if I have ever heard your heart rate go that fast before.”

There's a knock on the door before any of us can respond. Dakota pokes his head in.

“I thought I heard voices, are you guys alright? The healer is here to check the pups out, but they are under strict orders from my mom to check both you and Jena too. Don't argue. We let you all sleep as long as possible, but they are done with everyone else now.”

“Okay, just give us a minute to get everyone up and around, where do they want to see us?”

“Down in the living room, we have a makeshift hospital set up. It was faster for some of the warriors to come here to be treated and find their kids.”

I nod, “Alright give us ten, unless you want to help.” I give him a rye smile. I’ve seen him play with the kids at training, but this is completely different. 2

He surprises me though and walks right over and gives Ronan a little shake.

“Hey, bud let’s go get you checked out okay? The healers want to make sure you’re nice and strong for the next battle.” Ronan blinks a few times and then nods and crawls off the bed to stand next to him. “Give me your little clinger.” He points to Lily. “I’ll carry her down. She wouldn’t leave you last night. It was hard to get the two of you out of those secret tunnels of yours. Even with both of you being small.” He tries to pin me with a look and Lily didn’t hesitate to go to him and wrap her tiny arms around his neck

“Like I told Mateo, that was the point. You ready?” I look at Stephanie then back at Jena who was finally able to get Sebastian up and off of her. Juliana holding her other hand.

They are all still really little. I think Ronan is the oldest at five. They are all first born kids of warriors explaining why they have no siblings yet.

We walk out into the hallway and Cam is waiting for us. “You’re awake! Let’s go, Lenny wants to make sure she gets to feed you some food before it’s all gone. The warriors have been eyeing your pancakes all morning. He reaches

down and picks up Ronan, giving him a toss before moving him to his back.

"Can I have a ride too?" Sebastian asks, looking at everyone.

"Gotcha!" Mateo snatches him up and flips him over his shoulder, Sebastian squealing in delight.

We all head down and into the open living room where there are three mobile cots set up and various medical equipment, tape, garbage, herbs, slaves, creams, you name it, are strewn about. 1

"Oh! Well isn't this a sight?" Luna Ava stops in her tracks looking at us, her hand on her chest.

"Wha..? Huh? Oh. I see." Alpha Lucas walks in behind her, a huge smile breaking across his face. 1

I'm not sure if any of my other friends caught the conversation before Luna Ava got our attention. "Let's get you all checked then we can have breakfast on the patio. Lenny makes the best pancakes."

The check-ups went as expected. The kids were more anxious about the 'bad guys' and if they would be coming back and how soon their parents could come and get them.

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Most of the pups were able to go with their parents right away which was comforting. The warriors live close so no damage was done to their properties and most of them were healed of their injuries by the end of the day.

Lily stayed with me overnight. Her dad took a nasty bite from one of the rogues and it was taking time to heal all the torn muscle tissue. They recommended that his mate stay with him to speed up the process, but she didn't want Lily to see her dad like that so we are having a sleepover.

Jena and Lil kept her busy playing in the back yard all day, training to be as strong as her parents. Luna Ava was even able to get the pool cleaned and heated for all the kids to swim and wear themselves out. I gave her a bath in my 'small pool' bathtub and Sierra was now combing her hair while we all watched some kids show I have never heard of.

Lily has one of my t-shirts on and for the first time ever, something of mine is big on someone. She crawls onto my bed and curls up next to me under the covers. I don't think either of us made it five minutes before we were asleep.

I woke up at my usual early time, Lily still curled into my side, everyone else gone. The side of her face that was in contact with me is sweaty and a few of her soft locks are plastered to her forehead. I brush them away before I move to use the bathroom, which is what woke me in the first place.

When I got back, Lily was sitting in the middle of my bed, tears streaming down her face, looking terrified. I ran to her immediately.

"Hey, I'm right here. Are you okay?" I whisper to her.

"The window...The window...It made some noises and you was gone." She huffs in a big breath as I pull her into me and look out my window.

"Is anyone patrolling around the packhouse?" I have no idea what time it is or if everyone is asleep, but she's too little to make anything up and I can't leave her alone to go look.

As expected, all my guys responded. What I didn't expect was for them to come bursting into my room, further scaring this child. She screams and buries her head in my neck. I hold her tight whispering that it's okay in her ears. The boys are here to check out what she heard. While I am also giving them a look of irritation for not using their common sense.

"What's up Tiny?"

Why are they all panting? "Lily heard something rattle the window and it scared her. I was in the bathroom. I just wanted to know if it was possibly a patrol or something." Even though we are on the third floor and a patrol wolf would have had to climb up here to mess with the window. I'm still hopeful it can be explained.

They all move as a unit. Sam and Mateo leave out my bedroom door, Oliver comes to the side of my bed between

us and the window and the twins approach the window with caution, taking in everything they can. I can tell they are linking with each other and leaving me out purposely. But, I only have eyes for Lily right now and she is trembling in my arms.

I finally got her to look up at Oliver's back and explained that he is our very brave guard and he is here to help me keep her safe, cause it's always better to have two warriors working together than be by yourself. Then we shifted a little so she could see the twins working around the window, checking the entire thing before opening it and looking out. I'm trying to explain what they are doing so it takes her mind off of the idea of being scared and helps her focus on what they are doing to solve the mystery.

I always found that if I could break something down logically, then it became less scary. It seems to be the same for Lily. Both the twins are hanging out of my very large window. I don't have a balcony or any kind of ledge to step out onto, but this look is funny to Lily so we keep talking about it to make her giggle.

It doesn't take the guys long to look around then come back in and secure my window again. Then Kota closes the thick curtains, something I have never done.

"Cam walks over and sits on my bed, opening his arms to Lily. She doesn't even hesitate to crawl to him and let him bundle her on his lap. "I need to borrow Skylar for a couple of minutes. Can Oliver sit with you while we talk to her?" He brushes a lock of hair out of her face while she stares up at him, a little hero worship showing on her tiny face. She

nods at him and he smiles one of his blinding smiles. She hugs him around the neck then turns back to me.

"Come here, let me tuck you in and I'll be back soon." She crawls back to the head of my bed and under the covers. I tuck her in and move to grab a sweatshirt out of my closet. It is so much cooler when I don't have her little body radiating heat next to me.

When I come back out she has already talked Oliver into laying next to her. He's got his head propped against the headboard, one arm tucked behind his head the other has her tucked into his side.

It's cute to see these big, tough guys just soften with a look from a cute little girl. I don't think any of them could ever tell her no.

She's already back to sleep, so I follow Cam and Kota out of my room. I figured they just want to talk to me out of earshot, although I don't know why they couldn't do that over the mindlink, now that we are walking down the stairs. Something is off, but neither are talking so I just keep following.

We head all the way down to the first floor and into Alpha Lucas' office. When we enter, they close the door, but I notice we aren't alone. Alpha Lucas and Luna Ava are both here too. Now I am nervous.

"How long has your team been working together?" Cam asks moving to stand next to his dad behind the desk, Kota moves to his other side. I can't read their faces and that makes me worried. They didn't leave me out of the mindlink

so I could focus on Lily, they suspect me or someone on my team of something bad. It dawned on me that for the first time neither of them held my hand on the way down here.

We are not friends right now. I'm being interviewed, like a suspect. I don't know what they found, but now I have to defend myself and my team and everything I do and say is being scrutinized. My whole posture changes, my mind shifts as if I was debriefing with Warrior Osiston after a mission. I stand straight, assuming attention with my chin held high, hands clasped behind my back and focusing on a spot in the wall just above Alpha Lucas' head.

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