

Chapter 0099

“Not really. It started as a joke and then just stuck. They aren’t making fun of me, just stating the obvious size difference and now that all of them have put on more muscle it’s even worse and I don’t think any of them are done growing, but I’m pretty sure I am.” I roll my eyes at Sierra who laughs. Once we catch up to everyone else Kota grabs me around the waist and pulls me onto his lap. Cam is on one side of him, Mateo takes the other. Sam sits next to Cam pulling Sierra into his lap and I can feel Oliver come up behind Kota and I. There is no room for Xander to sit anywhere near me now. I can’t decide if the gesture is cute or frustrating.

What is going on? I link all five of them.

He’s just getting too close for comfort. Kota responds.

I chance a look at Sierra and see she is fighting a smile. This whole situation is totally funny to her, so it can’t be all bad right?

Yours or mine? I’m feeling a little feisty right now and go with it based on her reaction.

Both. Oliver’s clipped reply. I just roll my eyes.

He just got too comfortable too fast. And like he said, he's looking for his mate, he's going to snuggle up to any single female right now. If Cam is trying to placate me with logic, he just lost.

So you are saying he's doing to me what you guys do with every other female? I have no intentions of being led on, and it's a good idea to become friends with the future Alpha King. And what guy says 'snuggle'? No response.

I get up from Kota's lap. "Where are you going?" He jumps forward to try and grab my hand but I pull out of his reach before he can.

"The bathroom. Is that okay with you? Or is my leash not that long?" I say calmly and raise my eyebrow at them, looking each of the six guys in the eye, challenging what they are doing openly. No one replies. I look at Sierra, silently asking for her to join me.

She gets up smiling the biggest smile ever. Oliver moves to follow us. I point at him, "Nope, you sit down. And if any of you try to follow me I will throat punch you into the pool." As I start to turn Xander makes a move to get up. "You too, sit down. You all can finish your pissing match while we're gone." I

roll my eyes and Sierra openly laughs now and I think I heard laughter come from the adults sitting on the other side of the patio.

Sierra and I walk into the house and straight toward the stairs. I know there are bathrooms on the main floor, but I have to figure out what is going on and I can't do that where everyone can hear me. We head straight up to my room. 1


"What the hell was all of that?" I ask her as soon as my door is closed and locked for good measure.

"Your boys are jealous. You have never talked to a guy outside of our group before."

"What do you mean? I talk to guys at training all the time." I rub my forehead.

"Not like this. This time it was a guy, your age, openly flirting with you and they got a rude awakening. They like you in this little bubble and you keep talking about wanting to leave, this was the first time that idea was something real for them and they went into possessive mode. Also, I don't think any of them have ever been jealous before. It's an amusing look on them."

"I don't understand, we are all just friends. No guy has ever looked at me before because I am nothing to



look at, this is so weird. I have no idea what I am doing. He was flirting?” My voice went up an octave asking the question and pacing around my room.

“Oh, my poor sheltered girl. I don’t understand how you don’t see it. The guys are not the only ones who have changed. You just don’t look in the mirror much. You are gorgeous and strong and smart and independent. You are probably the only girl who hasn’t thrown yourself at any of them, the prince included. You treat them like normal people, you don’t fawn over them like celebrities. You don’t want anything from them, but their friendship. You aren’t afraid to publicly humiliate them, it’s refreshing for them. I’m sure, just now, was the first time someone, who isn’t his mother, has put the prince in his place in front of other people. Same for the guys. No one tells them ‘no’ or to stay put. You are on fire tonight.” She starts laughing again.

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“Okay, but what do I do about it? And stop laughing at me. This is so weird.” I flop back on my bed, my long hair fanning out around me. “I have no experience with boys like this, give me training and beating the crap out of them any day.”

“Well, you can go down, sit back on Kota’s lap, or whoever caveman’s you first and keep having awkward conversations or we can go talk to the adults and make the boys sweat and get their acts together. Either way, I’m going to enjoy myself.”

“Ugh! Let’s go.” I have no idea what I am going to do with her suggestion, but once we get back outside, my decision is made for me.

“Skylar! Come here, kiddo, I have a question.” We turn and walk towards the adults, leaving the boys watching out retreating backs. “What do you know about border security?” Warrior Nickolas asks when we are close enough. 1

“A little, I run our border every day and see patrols. I know some areas are more heavily monitored than others. I guess it all depends on the terrain, if the territory on the outside of the borders is open or

belongs to a neighboring pack, things like that. Why? I know our territory is a bit different since we are surrounded by water on most sides.” I sit in a chair next to him at their table, Sierra next to me. It’s almost strange to not be in someone’s lap.

“Let me put a hypothetical scenario out there and see what you think.”

He spends about ten minutes moving things from the table around giving me general topography. Furthest from me is a mountain range with a lake at the base, what he called the packhouse is to the left of the lake, butting up to the curved end of the range. He hesitated when he said ‘packhouse’ so this is code for something important. From the packhouse he describes different structures that fan out towards a forest line, like a sun burst. Just beyond the forest line are small clearings, miles apart, each with a different function, but he didn’t elaborate on that.

“So the dilemma is rogue attacks are coming at different times and from different locations. How would you set up patrols to guard an area like this?”

“That’s it?! That’s all the info and you want a full patrol schedule?” He just nods his head with a little smirk on his face. Alpha Lucas and the Alpha King are both watching intently giving nothing away. Okay, I’ll

bite, it's like a pop quiz in battle strategy class. I shift forward going into warrior mode. "How many are on patrol at any given time."

"You can have as many as you think you would need to run rotations."


Again, vague. Apparently I am being tested. Alright, let's see.

"Well, there are a lot of variables that I don't have that would help in this situation." I look at him sternly. "For instance what is the mountain range like? Is it all forest and trees? Easy to climb? If that is the case then I would put up watch structures with motion sensors a minimum of a mile out and go up to five miles if the terrain is easy considering how close the packhouse is to the base of the mountain. If it's all rock and pretty open, less patrol would need to be done from the mountain itself since it could be monitored from the ground and extra resources could be used elsewhere, but motion sensors in both cases would be helpful. I would also run patrols around the lake and have more or less depending on visibility, but it being at the base of the mountain would make it easy for an enemy to sit in the caves and crevices of the mountain and observe across the lake without being seen and the water would dim or mask the

scent.”

I grab a drink of water as I analyze the ‘forest’ portion of his example. I am really getting into my territory dissection, this is way more my speed than all the flirting talk.

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