## On The Run 103

## Chapter 103

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"Know what?" Noleen asks, coming up the steps and stop- ping behind me.

"That you and Michelle are on patrol after dinner at the front gate," I chuckle, and she groans.

"Really? Can't I go with Lacy? Michelle never shuts up! The girl could talk the leg off an iron pot!" Noleen whines and I chuckle, getting up to help with dinner.

Everyone set out on patrol after dinner while I help my mother and a few of the women clean up. Throughout dinner, I am distracted by what Sondra told me and the bond tugging frantically, craving our Axton. Even Lexa seems to be in a de- pressed mood.

My brief excitement at finally being home on my territory has dimmed quickly, but it also has me worried. Sondra is still hiding something, and we still have the issue of who the Strigoi is or are. We aren't even sure if it is one person or a lair of them. Taking the rubbish to the bin, I toss the huge black bag in while my mother stacks the chairs back in the shed.

A few women stand around the bonfires. Their children are roasting marshmallows while they stand around and chat. Walking back to my mother, I hear my phone start ringing and stop. Pulling it from my pocket, I glance at it. I see Axton's name pop up on the screen in a video call and I can't help the stupid grin that splits onto my face.

My mother glances at me, and I hold up the phone. "Take it. I will finish cleaning up." She waves me away, and I turn to head for the house.

Answering it, I walk back inside, knowing he probably wants to see the boys. "Is everything alright out there?' He

asks as I climb the steps, heading for my room.

"Yep, the girls are running patrols, and the boys are asleep," I tell him.

"Did you have a chance to speak to Sondra?" He asks, and I hold a finger to my lips. He nods once, and I head to my room, slip inside, trying not to let the door creak and wake the boys and close the door.

he can see them. Facing

coun- cil once I get off the phone with you. If it goes through, maybe you can come out here beforehand." I tell him, sitting on the end of my

maybe you come over tomorrow?" He

my eyes.

I don't want people getting the wrong idea,

it. Don't make out that you don't

"It's the bond!"

is?" He

to try to dig up some dirt on my father. He

have the title changed. Marco dropped the paper- work off last night."

or do you

care of it, but just means I now have no choice but to challenge him or find a way for him to stand down. I really don't want to have to make him submit." I sigh. Lexa also worries, old fears

have access to the

not that simple. I have looked into my father's past before. There is nothing dating from before I was

Marco or you could to get

fers.

has already, so whatever was covered up,

you already checked the basements at the

that is why I want to come in, see if there are any old articles. Something about him at all. I checked the council data when I was at your place."

you left?" he asks, and I chew my lip. That wasn't what I was