

## Chapter 36 : Bonding Over Hot Chocolate!

(The events in this chapter takes place during the same time as the last chapter i.e - when Roman wakes up until the time Easton brings the news about rogue attack to him.)

Anaya woke up on a soft bed and and a bit disoriented. There was little to no light outside the window so it may have been Anaya's biological clock acting up again that made her wake up so early.

"Can't go back to sleep." Anaya mumbled and patted her pillow. She had slept a lot during her stay at the hospital and it was making her lazy. It was better to go back to her busy lifestyle.

Sitting up on the bed, Anaya took a few deep breaths. The purpose of sending her to the Southern warrior pack was just to accompany Charlotte but Anaya felt it wasn't fair that the Alpha had to accomodate two people for no reason. If Anaya was going to stay, then she had to earn her keep.

Maybe if she helped around the house...

There was no answer to that. She will have to ask

the housekeeper for that. Anaya got off the bed and arranged the sheets and blanket properly. The attached washroom was what made this room luxurious for Anaya. Back home she didn't have a personal washroom.

After washing up Anaya left the room. It was still early as the sun was just coming out. The sky was a beautiful shade of orange, covered in light frost. Anaya didn't expect anyone to be awake at this time but when she came downstairs, the kitchen lights were on.

Anaya made a bee line towards the kitchen. Inside aunt Regan was stirring something in a large pot. She didn't notice Anaya's light footsteps and was startled to see her at the door.

"Oh, you scared me!" Aunt Regan placed a hand on her chest for a second.

"I-I am sorry." Anaya stuttered.

"It's alright. You get up so early everyday?" Aunt Regan asked and once again stirred the contents of the pot. Anaya nodded but realised that aunt Regan can't see her response so she made a small sound of affirmation.

Aunt Regan had a smiling face all the time. She hummed at Anaya's response and said, "The kids



wake up very early for training too. Especially Logan since he has extra training before school. It's getting colder these days so I am making hot chocolate for them. Would you like some?"

Anaya wanted to see what the hot chocolate looked like but she was too shy to ask. No wonder the pot was so big, the six teenagers had to be served tall glasses to keep warm in the cold.

"I am fine. Thank you."

"That's fine, there is a lot to spare so just take it if you feel like having it later. In this household you shouldn't be shy about food and drinks, everyone has a big appetite here."

Aunt Regan lined up six large insulated tumblers and poured the hot chocolate into them using a ladle. Anaya gulped when she saw the rich brown color of the hot chocolate. It smelled good and if looked carefully, one could see the steam rising off of it.

The tumblers were filled one by one and then sealed with the cap. Aunt Regan placed the tumblers in a large bag and placed six small individual packets of marshmallows in as well.

"I still have to prepare breakfast. Anaya dear, can you deliver this to the kids?" Aunt Regan asked, "It

will be a huge help."

Anaya immediately took the bag from her hand and held it while nodding, "I'll do it."

Aunt Regan had all the intentions to have Anaya interact more with the kids. They were closer in age group so it will be easier for Anaya to open up to them. Having her deliver these and also stay to talk a little will help her a lot.

Roman had already told her about Anaya and she thought the young girl was really pitiful. Having experience something so negative that had such an emotional impact on her. If she could do something for Anaya then why not?

Although aunt Regan had good intentions towards Anaya, the latter was not thinking in the same direction. Anaya felt like this was only right since she was staying here for free. Doing some housework and errands was necessary. Aunt Regan wanted her to deliver things then she would.

"Thank you so much. What do you prefer for breakfast, I'll make it."

"You don't have to.. I can make breakfast once I come back." Anaya said slowly.



Without realising Anaya had spoken more words in the last ten minutes than she had in an entire day back home. It was mostly like that because no one spoke to her at home, and when they did, it was to scold her or curse her out.

In Southern Warrior pack people actually talked to her nicely. Alpha Roman was respectful and nice, the kids at his house were good and took the initiative to talk to her as well. And now aunt Regan was being nice as well. When people are nice and talk to her, Anaya could only be polite and respond to them.

Who were the ones who said Southern Warrior pack was bad and ruthless? Everyone that Anaya had met until now were so good to her. All the rumours were false. Southern Warrior pack is a good pack with good people, Anaya made up her own conclusion.

"How can I let you make breakfast when it's my job? Do you want me to retire at this young age?" Aunt Regan joked.

Anaya smiled as well. She left the kitchen with a little smile that aunt Regan had left with her. She left the house and felt a cold chill go up her spine. It was really cold in the morning. Inside the house was warm and toasty but as soon as she stepped



outside, Anaya could feel the freezing cold everywhere.

Anaya realised a problem as soon as she left the front door. She didn't know where they were training. Anaya was about to go back inside and ask aunt Regan about it when she saw someone coming her way.

It was Beta Easton.

Easton was in a rush to see the Alpha so he didn't notice Anaya until he reached the front door. His feet came to a screeching halt right in front of her.

"You are up so early?" Easton asked in surprise.

Anaya nodded with a little hesitation. She lifted up the bag with hot chocolate in it and asked, "Where are they training?"

Easton blinked a few times and finally understood what Anaya was trying to say. He gave her simple directions to get there. It wasn't far away and if the directions were followed properly then it would take five minutes tops to get there.

"But why are you delivering them?" Easton frowned, "Is everyone else too lazy to get their job done? You don't have to go there, get someone else do it. You should get more rest while you



can."

"It's fine." Anaya said and bowed before leaving. She left the gate quietly. Easton was worried about his Alpha's mate's health so he sent someone after her to make sure she gets to the training ground safely. Then he went inside to give his Alpha the news. (A/N This is a reference from the previous chapter)

Anaya carried the bag and walked over in the direction given by Easton. It was cold and Anaya wasn't wearing a jacket to keep herself warm. Although she was shivering, Anaya wasn't thinking of ways to keep herself warm.

Extreme cold and hot temperatures were not a new thing. Back home Anaya only had an old mattress and a thin blanket to herself in the attic. Sometimes it was freezing cold and Anaya didn't have anything to protect herself and sometimes it was too hot to sleep. When it rained, the roof leaked and the mattress would be soaked.

After many years of experiencing these things Anaya had long ago adapted to the difference in temperatures. The effects were still same on her body but Anaya's mind tend to ignore those effects efficiently.

As Anaya's feet grew cold and stiff during the



short walk, she didn't stop to warm them up.

Easton's directions eventually led her to the training area. It was a large open area with only a small group training there. They were the familiar group of teenagers.

Anaya stood by the side and watched as Tina landed a heavy blow to her opponent and had them back up three or four steps. For a tiny girl, Tina was very strong. Anaya was thoroughly impressed. She had almost forgotten about the purpose for coming here.

It was Logan who saw her first, standing in a corner watching them. At first he thought she had wandered here while taking a morning walk or something so he approached her.

"Hey," Logan came up to her. He was sweaty and puffing out heavy breaths. Anaya saw him and remembered her task.

"Hot chocolate." Anaya held up the bag of tumblers and handed them to Logan, "Aunt Regan made it."

Logan's eyes lit up a little at the sight of tumblers and marshmallows. He called the others.

"Holden! Kruger! Mason! Georgia! Tina!" Logan

screamed their names, "Come here quick!"

Five teenagers jogged to the spot where Anaya and Logan were standing. Suddenly Anaya's little corner was not so hidden anymore. She was surrounded by six teens who were sweaty and smelling like old unwashed clothes.

"Anaya you wake up so early everyday?" Tina came up to her first and asked. She smiled with her teeth.

Anaya nodded and pointed at the bag of tumblers in Logan's hand, "Hot chocolate."

"Oh! Oh! Give me my tumbler!" Georgia took the bag from Logan and opened it. Inside all the tumblers were perfectly aligned. The tumblers were custom made a few months ago for them after a huge fight broke out between them for new tumblers. Roman still remembered the headache they caused him and couldn't deal with it.

The tumblers had names written so they never mixed up. Georgia took each one out and passed it to the one it belonged to along with a packet of marshmallows.

The teenagers took their tumblers and made their way to the testing area. Tina naturally held Anaya's hand and took her along.



Anaya was taken by surprise when Tina held her hand. She was only supposed to deliver the hot chocolate over and go back to help aunt Regan with breakfast. But how does one shake off a young girl's hand who was holding on so gently?

The only experience Anaya had with kids was her own sister and it wasn't a good experience either. Tina was only a few years older than Charlotte. Anaya didn't know how to deal with this situation.

"I have to go back," Anaya said.

Tina looked up, their height difference wasn't much either. Tina was only a head shorter than Anaya and was still growing at a fast pace. When Tina heard Anaya had to leave, she pouted.

"Why? There is still time for breakfast. Our training is almost over so you can go home with us," Tina said.

"I have to help with breakfast. You enjoy the hot chocolate. I will see you later," Anaya insisted on going back but didn't dare shake of Tina's hand that was holding her hand.

"Tina, don't be annoying," Kruger said, "Anaya must be busy. We will see her after school too. Anaya isn't going anywhere, right Anaya?"



Anaya nodded, secretly thanking Mason for the help. Tina left Anaya's hand and immediately it felt colder. She waved at Anaya and bid goodbye.

Anaya left the training ground and walked back to the mansion. The walk felt shorter this time around. It was only five minutes walk after all.

Anaya came back and went straight to the kitchen. Aunt Regan was preparing lunch boxes for the kids school. Anaya naturally came in to help pack them up. She used to do it for Charlotte all the time.

"You don't have to do this Anaya. Rest up." Aunt Regan said once again. She didn't like how this girl always came ahead to help. She wasn't so old yet.

"It's fine." Anaya replied and carried on. Aunt Regan understood that Anaya won't listen so she decided to let her help a little.

Just then there was a little commotion at the front door. The kids were back already. Aunt Regan went outside the kitchen and asked why they were back so early today. They were still holding their tumblers and sipping hot chocolate.

"It was too cold so we came back. What if we catch a cold? We won't be able to train for a few days then." Mason came ahead to give the excuse.



Holden backed him up by saying, "That's right. We measured the pros and cons. We already had the hot chocolate so we won't have breakfast. Please pack a big lunch for us aunt Regan!"

The kids have their smiles and ran upstairs. Aunt Regan shook her head in amusement and let them go. She knew those kids very well.

She came back inside to see that Anaya had packed up half of the lunches already. The school had a microvave facility for the students to heat up their food so she would always pack the boxes early in the morning.

But today Anaya was there to help. Although she didn't feel good having Anaya do any of the work, the girl just wouldn't listen. Aunt Regan took this opportunity to make some small talks and know more about Anaya.

"How old are you this year Anaya?" She asked.

"I'm eighteen." She replied.

"Oh, you are still so young. Did you finish school early?" Aunt Regan asked, "You'll be staying here for quite some time so I am guessing you already finished school? That's why they let you come?"

Anaya's movements were consistent and even.



Even when she felt an emotional tremble in her heart, the hands didn't shake.

"I didn't go to school." Anaya answered.

"What?" Aunt Regan asked, thinking she heard it wrong.

"I dropped out before joining middle school."  
Anaya replied calmly.

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(A/N - Hey everyone! many of you have been asking me to update more than one chapter everyday, which is truly awesome because that means you guys love the story and want to read more!

However, I cannot write more than a set number of chapters per day, I still have to study for college as my exams are going to start soon :(

As a student I have to put my time in study too. However, I am writing twice as much as I was before. If y'all still want more than one chapter a day then it's okay, but the length of the chapters will be a bit smaller.

Do let me know how you guys want it, comment it and I'll see how much I can do!

Lot's of love,

Skylar

XOXO



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