

Chapter 103

Miranda POV

The siblings and their armies are currently under a cloaking spell. We lost them. They were just gone, without a trace or even a hint of where they could be hiding. They could have moved out or have surrounded our walls. No one knows. The witches have been working hard to try to lift it, but it doesn't do anyone any good if we don't know their location. Avalynn proposed that they may have gotten spooked by everyone here. Most of the pack leaders and more Lycans and Witches than I would dare to go up against from both sides of our territories. were all gathered here. My mind was going what felt like a million miles an hour. My thoughts moved quickly from one to the other.

I sighed as I felt my magic coursing through me, wanting an escape, a release. I was so annoyed by the off and on appearance of the siblings. I was ready to end this and put it behind us and move on with our futures. I sat at my desk, moving my chair back and forth as I studied the map in front of me. I was still getting used to where everything was located in the kingdom. I was afraid that it might take too long to figure it out.

"I got it. If anything happens, give me control and I will get us through it. I will make sure we go in the right direction. The map is burned into my, well, our memory." Seraphine spoke with a smile. It was weird how I could tell she was smiling.

"Thank you." I told her. I was so very grateful for her, even if it was weird having her in my mind. I was getting used to it though.

I looked back down at the map at where all of our hidden bunkers were located and the secret ways to get there through hidden passages in between the walls. more closely. I could feel Seraphine looking with me, studying the entire thing. I felt a knot in my stomach as my mind flashed and everything went dark. Suddenly, a vision was brought forth and it was like I was watching the future unfold before me. I reached out to touch the tree I was standing next to. It was dripping with what I could only imagine was blood, but I couldn't feel it. Not only that, but my hand stayed dry. I looked out into the distance and frowned at what I couldn't see. It was as if everything was completely blurry. One thing for sure was there would be a lot of deaths, as I was surrounded by corpses and the green grass was tainted crimson. We knew that there would be a lot of deaths that would be coming our way, we just did not know when.

I took a cautious step out onto the field. With every step I made I looked around for any danger. Then I heard the muffled sounds of a deep voice. I couldn't make out entirely what he was saying but I could tell it was pain, worry, a hint of anger, and sorrow.

Even blurry, I could tell it was Brent as he rushed past me. When I turned to look where he was running to, the vision disappeared and I was looking at a worried Avalynn.

"Are you okay?" She asked me. I blinked, trying to regain my focus. When my eyes focused on Avalynn, I raised my eyebrows at her.

"You can see me?" I asked her and reached out and grabbed her hand. I could feel her.

She looked at me weird and nodded "Yes." She said hesitently.

"Okay." I inhaled deeply. "I just had a vision. I couldn't make it out though. It was all blurry." I quickly told her.

"Oh. Well then, that isn't too handy if it's blurry." She gave a light laugh.

"I guess not." I paused and turned my attention back to the map. "Have you studied the maps yet?"

"I have." Avalynn moved to the opposite side of the table to look at it with me.

"Do you remember any of it?" I looked over at her as she shrugged her shoulders.

"Some, I think so. But then again, not really." Avalynn smiled. "It will take time, I still do not know all the different ways around my home yet. Don't stress it and just use your instinct." She looked back down at the map and made a face.

"What is it?" I looked back to where she was pointing.

"Did you see this right here?" She glanced over to me and I just shook my head at her. "It says Q's Passageway."

"Hmm. I wonder if that means Queen?" I looked over at her.

"I would like to think so." I watched her finger trace the passageway, it was barely visible and hard to follow. The passageway was lost between others and she found the end. The end seemed to lead to an open field three miles outside the castle walls. Now, if that is the truth, we shall see later. The question now was, where did it begin? We looked at the map for a good thirty minutes before we figured it out.

"Oh! Here we go!" Look right here." I placed my finger on a part of the map that was slightly smudged. It looked like something that came through some kind of hidden doorway. From the floor maybe?

"We need to find this. This hallway leads from your office." Avalynn looked around the room. "Oh, we are already in here." She laughed and I joined her.

"Okay, it has got to be somewhere in here." We both began to walk around the room. We pulled away different books, moved paintings out of the way, pushed around furniture. After an hour of looking around the room, we stood there staring at one another thinking.

"Where in the world could it be?" Avalynn asked.

I looked at the bookcase and back at Avalynn, then I looked at the floor and began to stomp around on the rug. I listened to any inconsistencies in the floor. When the floor made a slight creaking sound, my eyes snapped at Avalynn who was already bending down and lifting a corner up. I helped move the rug back and out of the way. Oddly enough, the floor was the same.

"What the hell man?" Avalynn got down on her hands and knees and began pulling at the wooden floor. She looked like a mental person crawling all over the floor. "I know it is here. It has to be here somewhere!" When her claws extended into the cracks of the floor and pulled with her last effort, a seamless door was pulled up. I looked down at her as her head snapped up in my direction with a look of excitement as she grinned from ear to ear.

"You did it! Want to check it out?" I looked down at Avalynn and she nodded her head.

"Yeah, I'll go first," Avalynn said and soon hopped down the open door. I heard a thud as her feet hit the stone floor. "Come on down. You're good," she called up.

I took one look around the room and noted that we would need to figure out a way for this to not be so obvious that an escape had been made. I lowered myself down and pulled the handle and the door closed. I yanked one good time and a click was heard. "I think that is a good thing." I looked over at Avalynn.

"I think so too." She smiled and I could see Charlotte was looking through Ava's eyes. I could feel Seraphine looking through my eyes. The tunnels were dark and damp and had a chill. I was happy to be a Lycan with this terrible chill hanging in the air. Thankfully, we could see as if there were lights going down the hall. After an hour of exploring, we still hadn't reached the end. Avalynn turned around to look behind us and back down the dim hall.

"So what do you want to do? Keep going?" I asked her.

Avalynns' shoulders moved up and down as she shrugged. "I would like to continue on but I feel like we are wasting time."

Seraphine's thoughts drifted through my mind. "You could give us control and shift."

"Oh, we can shift. Seraphine just mentioned it. We could run full speed and figure everything out as we go. " I looked over at her.

She nodded, "Good idea. Charlotte just said the same thing." She smiled at me and in a flash shifted into her Lycan form.

I followed suit and gave Seraphine control. My shift was not as fast as Avalynn, but it was getting better. When I shifted, I noticed how much bigger I was than Charlotte. Her Lycan was known to be strong and powerful, yet I was larger, but not by much.

We took off at incredible speed, rushing down the hallway. We ran around every twist and turn quickly. It wasn't much longer that we came across a door. It was an arched doorway that was built with mud and stone. It looked very old and not very sturdy or reliable. I was afraid that if we opened it, it would crumble to the ground. Was it worth the risk if we didn't know what was on the other side?

"Open it. If all else fails, we can try to rebuild it." Seraphine told me.

With that, I shifted back to my human form. I looked over to Charlotte as she stepped away from the door. I slowly pushed the door open. The door only opened about two feet or so. I frowned and pushed my body against it and I was slapped in the face by a branch.

"f*****g s**t! Ow!" I cursed and heard Charlotte blow a hard breath through her nose. I could only imagine she was laughing at my misfortune. I rubbed my forehead for a moment before moving further. When I opened the door, the door opened into a thick brush of trees, bushes, brush, mixed with other plants and flowers. I pushed some aside and it opened up to the forest. I stepped out and looked at the door itself. It was covered in moss and had other plants growing off of it. It was very well blended with its surroundings.

Avalynn had shifted back and stepped out behind me. She took a look around and we went back into the hidden tunnel before we were spotted by someone. We shifted and ran back from where we came from. When we opened the floor door to my office, both Everest and Brent were standing there with their arms crossed. They were both wearing scowls on their faces.

"Where have you two been?" Everest said angrily. Even though he sounded angry, he looked more worried. His face softened when Avalynn climbed up the ladder and his arms were around her.

"Your scents didn't even leave this room! Why were you both ignoring our links?" Brent's scowl moved to more of a disappointed look and then to relief in just a few seconds. His arms wrapped around me in a tight hug. I wrapped my arms around him and inhaled his wonderful scent. He did the same. I could feel him physically beginning to relax in my arms. I let out a happy sigh. His arms were my safe place.

"Wait, you both tried to link us? I didn't know.." My words trailed off.

Avalynn sighed, "I didn't get your link either, Everest."

I looked over at Avalynn, "What if it blocks everything?"

"Interesting, maybe so. Could be some sort of spell." She nodded with a small shrug.

Brent cleared his throat. "Anyway, we have a lead on the siblings."

"You do?" I looked up at him.

"Yes, they're about ten miles from here, on the other side of the river. One of them made the mistake of coming outside their boundary line and was spotted. When followed, they disappeared into thin air. It wasn't one of the siblings, but it was one of their followers. We have a team of witches working on taking down their cloaking spell and then we will find out more." Brent frowned.

"What is it?" I asked him.

Everest spoke this time, "That means that if their cloaking spell comes down, then it could be an automatic war. So we need to be ready."

"You both need to train together and with us." Brent looked between us.

"Yes, you both need to be ready. We all need to be on the same page. We will have a private training session tonight, after dinner." Everest put his hands into his pockets.

"We will hold a giant training session tomorrow to make sure we are all ready. Lycans, wolves, and the witches will all come together as one. One massive army." Brent told us.

"I like the idea. How long will the training sessions be tomorrow?" I moved to sit down on the couch.

"A few hours or so," Brent said. "Anyway, dinner is ready. You two were gone a while. I am sure you are both hungry?"

As if right on cue, my stomach growled. We left the room and went to eat dinner. During dinner we discussed further plans for what our training would entail.

