

# The Rise Of The King Chapter 1

-Vera-

"Do we really have to do this?" I moan.

"Vera, we discussed this before, you can't turn into your wolf."

"But it will be much faster if I do!"

I'm pouting.

"Noah is right, doc. We can't risk anyone seeing you. These people probably have scouts beyond their "You're unbearable ever since you became beta, Eli. You don't have to kiss Noah's ass every time," I cr Eli's lycan scoffs, I assume in amusement.

So far, my wolf has been relegated to appear only at night and very far from the castle. Did I mention driving me mad.

Noah quickly disposes of his clothes and turns to his lycan in front of me, kneeling with his back to m I take a deep breathe, trying to control my temper, and get on his back.

Soon after, we are running past the forest, in the direction of our destination.

Five months have passed since we defeated Alistair. Five months of constant work trying to rebuild th came along.

Of course, Elden has seen to the return of the scholars and students. The library has been thoroughly help their teachers in hopes of becoming scholars themselves.

ry to look out for rogues," Eli says right before turning to his lycan form and putting our bags over his shoulders. arms and turn my head up to give him the stink eye.

o turn with a chaperone? I wish I was kidding. Noah has tasked either Eli or Lucas to watch over me when I turn on the nights that he can't be with me. It's

an climb up.

om to its former glory. We've had scholars, students, warriors, healers, and diplomats return to the castle to try and get back to what it was before Alistair

d and now houses a tiny army of people who are sorting, cleaning, and restoring books as we speak. Alongside them, students have come back as well to

I personally have overseen the return of the healers and have started a training course for women wh think they are deities. At first, I thought they had a reason to be so arrogant, but their 'medicine' wasn't that cloth they give you, it is the only relief they'll provide. Why? Because Lycans can take it. That's it. I have had several nightmares since learning this where Noah dies at their hands; had I known all of th I struggled with them for a few months, trying to make them understand that their practices were borderline barbaric, but they would just shut me down. Until one day, I had enough of their bullshit and planted myself at the entrance of the medical halls, not letting anyone in; I essentially sent them all home. Just like that.

to become nurses. It's been incredibly challenging, not only because I'm an outsider and a woman, but because healers are just a bunch of assholes who taught in my medical program... it is \*that\* outdated. They're brutes who don't even use anesthesia most of the time. Amputation? You better bite down on ll the reasoning behind it. I still have to suppress the urge to roll my eyes every time they explain procedures like that to me, simply because it's stupid. I re, I would have cut my own leg before letting them operate on him the day we defeated Alistair.

They had audiences with their King, whom I fortunately happen to be sleeping with, and it became clear since then that they had no protection from him whatsoever.

"I don't think you understand that if you don't do as she says, she will just train an entire generation of \*doctors\* without you. \*You\* are not necessary, she's invited you all here out of courtesy," Noah had told them. "Not to mention she's a healer in her own right, \*and\* a warrior, guess who lycans are going to favor?" Eli had said.

Ever since then, everyone got the point; either get in line, or leave. It's quite simple, though it angered me that they couldn't take my word for it and had to hear it from Noah and Eli. Not that it has been a smooth ride, they do as I say but through gritted teeth. If there is one thing that these past months have taught us, is that there is a lot more work to be done to return this kingdom to its former glory. But if there is one thing that they have taught me, is that I don't know if it's worth going back to its former glory. Even if lycans held great territories and were once incredibly rich, the policy of not changing, not evolving, was not started by Alistair; it was started and perpetuated by Noah's ancestors. Afterall, why fix something that isn't broken?

They stayed almost frozen in a gone by era, one that I read of in books as a \*child\* and even then, it was mere history to us, not a reality. They haven't expanded nor diversified their economic sectors, having agriculture as their main economic pillar. This was fine before because of the sheer amount of land they held and the gross number of farmers, but rogue invasions and pillage has naturally crippled such a fragile economy.

Indeed, Noah has a bigger task at hand than we could ever have imagined.

After several hours of running and walking, we stop at a clearing. Each lycan puts down their bags and shifts right in front of me; I avert my eyes since I don't feel like seeing any of them naked...ever.

Noah leans down, letting me get off his back and shifts, quickly putting on his clothes.

"Hey, how was that?" He asks me, taking my cold hands in his and rubbing them gently. I appreciate the warmth it provides and smile up at him.

"It was fine," I lie.

My core, arms, and legs are on fire from holding on to him this long. Running in my wolf form would have been much more pleasant.

"We should set up camp. It's getting rather late and we still have a day's worth of travel left," Lucas says.

"King? Could I have a word?" Council member William comes closer, interrupting us.

"Noah, please."

William smiles.

"Noah, could I have a word?"

Noah turns to me.

"No no, it's okay for her to listen, of course," he clarifies.

With that, we begin walking away from the group so as to not be heard.

"So, I understand Caleb has already prepared you for what you might encounter once we get to our destination."

Our destination. Right.

Did I mention what this trip even was?

We are on a journey to visit all of the 'royal families' that used to support the crown; those rich families that used to give money to the Castle in exchange for well-trained soldiers to protect their land, and therefore, the kingdom's land. [SEARCH THE WEBSITE TO ACCESS CHAPTERS OF NOVELS EARLY AND IN THE HIGHEST QUALITY.](#)

Alistair cut them off, well aware of how the castle would suffer once they stopped giving him money, but it was a calculated risk. The only real Royal Family is Noah's family; hence they respect their position. But Alistair? He knew that any given day the families

could plot against him and put their own King on the throne; afterall, Alexander was believed to be the last true King and since he had never publicly produced an heir, the power vacuum would have been too great had these families been left unchecked. In turn, Alistair sacrificed the protection they offered to the vast lycan territory, making them an easy target to rogue invasions. Which is why we're here. We need for them to protect their territories once again, with the support of the crown of course. "He did," Noah says.

"Well, as you both know, this is a distant part of my family, so even if Caleb explained the basics, I have to be honest with you," we both just stare at him, encouraging him to continue as he adjusts his throat, "well, Cecil, my second cousin, lost her husband to a rogue invasion. It has left their family structure crippled and in need of a male heir. Of course, Cecil is much too old to bear any more children, but she does have a daughter, the only child to come from her marriage. and she's uhm... of age," he finishes. Noah raises his eyebrow at him, but I can feel his anger rising as if it were my own.

"I - I know you were clear about this Your Highness, but the only way the Council found to have the families host us was to promise the... the possibility of you taking a wife."

Noah's jaw clenches furiously and William instinctively lowers his head.

"I'm sorry, Your Highness, we tried everything, but they don't care for anything else, not even to regain their lands and riches, they want more. They want their sacrifices recognized and this is the only way."

I turn to look at Eli, Lucas, and Caleb who are now staring at us; their attention drawn by Noah's murderous aura.

As weird as it is, I think Noah before becoming King was not at his full warrior potential. He was never challenged, not really, but now that he has had to take command of an entire Kingdom, his presence is very hard to ignore; much like an Alpha for wolves. As wolves, we are *\*all\** aware when an Alpha walks into a space. It makes me wonder if this is coming from his mother's side; his wolf side.

Caleb comes close to us, cautiously, having overheard at least the last bit of the conversation.

"Before you say anything, Noah, just know that you don't actually have to marry any of them. They were never promised you would take a wife, only that you would consider it. All we ask is that you, and Vera," he turns to look at me, "pretend like you're open to it." "Fine. Fine. Sorry, I have to get my temper in check." Noah says waving his hand dismissively. releasing the collective tension that his aura had created in all of us. "Now if you'd excuse me, I'd like some time alone with my mate."

He takes my hand and turns his back on Caleb and William, leading us into the forest.

"You know, you really don't have to scare them to death every time the topic..."

He kisses me before I can finish the sentence and I melt into his kiss, wrapping my arms around his neck. It's a passionate kiss, one that we haven't shared in a long time. He uses his hands to freely roam over my back, my breasts, my legs, until he gets to my hips and lifts them, wrapping my legs around his hips.

I'm pinned up against a tree as he ravages my mouth, something I welcome and reciprocate.

When he breaks the kiss, we are both panting.

"We can't, not here," I tell him, painfully aware of both of our needs.

"I know, I know. I just... I miss you."

I look into his eyes and cup his face gently with both of my hands.

"I miss you, too."

I kiss him again, this time gently.

He moans.

"Do you know how long it's been since I've made love to you?"

"Don't remind me," I groan.

It's been weeks, maybe even a month already, since we've been intimate. It's just been very hard now that we were both working nonstop and he has Council meetings until the later hours of the night. The times we actually managed to share a bed, we are both too tired to do anything.

I put my forehead on his and close my eyes.

"We have to do this, Noah. Even if it's just pretending, it's what the kingdom needs."

"I know. I just don't want... you're not just side piece to me, and they're all making it seem like you should be. It makes me want to kill them all."

I chuckle.

"I'm glad you haven't given into your desires."

He sighs.

"Ok. We should get back. It's getting darker and we need to set up camp."

He lowers me to my feet and takes my hand, leading me back to the camp.

Then I realize something.

"So, your murderous aura..."

"Yeah, it's because we haven't had s\*x."

I start laughing uncontrollably, tears rim my eyes and I have to stop walking to wipe at them. The great King Noah, savior of the lycan race and beast of legends, has been pissy because he hasn't been getting laid.

He clicks his tongue and throws me over his shoulder, spanking my b\*\*t loudly.

"Keep laughing like that and I won't give a fuck if they all hear and see us."

This makes me laugh even harder. He really is in a mood.

Like this, we make our way back to camp where the others have thankfully already gotten started on tonight's dinner.

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## **The Rise Of The King Chapter 2**

-Vera-

"Please tell me we are close," Eli says.

"We're close, only about one more hour," Caleb responds.

"Had I known how much walking and running we had to do, I would've bailed," Lucas says.

"You can't go against your King's orders, young man!" William scolds him.

Lucas just rolls his eyes.

He has grown so much these past months. I don't know if it's the fact that he's getting older, or the experiences he's gathered in this time, but he's definitely maturing and I can't help but smile at that. It's like witnessing your little brother finally become a man.

"Noah, when we get back you should consider training with us, without you it's like we're not training at all," he says.

"Young man!" William scolds again.

Lucas stops.

"The young man has a name," he replies, "Hi, I'm Lucas, it's nice to meet you," he says extending his hand to William, mockingly.

I giggle at this. Council member William is a lot more modern and accepting than the rest of the Council, but compared to the youth, he's very outdated.

William ignores him and keeps walking, huffing and puffing as he goes past him.

"What's up his ass?" Lucas joins Noah and I as we walk behind all of them.

"He's old school, and you were never taught manners," Noah says, punching Lucas's arm.

He chuckles.

"I mean it, Noah. You were one of us only a few months ago, we all support you as King, but you can't neglect your troops."

"I know. Thank you for telling me, I promise I'll go train with you guys once we return."

Noah smiles at him and this seems to satisfy Lucas, because he happily jogs back to Eli's side.

"And yet another thing I have to put on the list," he sighs.

I smile sympathetically at him. Noah has a lot in his plate right now. Everything from the Council meetings, training, tending to the new diplomats, healers, and scholars, designing economic and defense strategies against rogues. And now, hunting for a wife. Running a kingdom is hard enough, but rescuing a dying one? It's almost impossible.

"You can't do everything at once, Noah. At least not now. You have to prioritize, which is why we're here."

"Everything is a priority, that's the problem." he mumbles.

"State your business in Queen Cecil's land!"

Queen Cecil?

I raise an eyebrow at this and notice that we are quickly being surrounded by men with weapons, if you can even call them that.

Noah instinctively places me behind him, hiding me.

"We are here for an audience with Cecil, I am Council member William, her cousin. This is Lucas, warrior of the Castle, Caleb, the former Beta to the great King Alexander, Eli, Beta to the current King, and Noah, his Royal Highness." They seem to relax a little at William's introduction; the fact that he didn't introduce me doesn't go unnoticed.

"My apologies, I didn't realize your party would be this small. It's quite dangerous out here, I was expecting his Royal Highness to travel with a small army."

"We *are* a small army," Eli snaps back, not too pleased with their presence.

"Again, my apologies, please, let us help you with the bags the rest of the way."

When they come close to Noah and I, one of them catches my scent.

"A wolf! They have a wolf with them!"

Suddenly, they all stop what they are doing and pick their weapons back up, this time surrounding Noah and I.

"I *suggest* you lower your weapons, or else our visit here will be rather short and bloody," Noah growls.

Noah's large frame still covers me, but some of the soldiers have come close enough so that they

can see me.

"Ah, yes, yes. This is the King's mate." William quickly introduces me; rather dismissively in my opinion.

"A wolf?"

"The King's mate?! The king has a mate?"

"Does Queen Cecil know His Highness has a mate?"

"I can't imagine Violet knew."

"Why is she even here?"

Their comments are mumbled amongst themselves, but not low enough.



"She is my mate, under my direct protection. If that is a problem, please excuse us with "Queen\* Cecil, but we will have to turn around and go back home," Noah says, his aura once again making itself known. The soldiers are visibly shaken by his presence; some even shutter.

"No, no. My apologies once again, we were just not... expecting her. Please follow me,"

The first soldier to speak speaks again. This time, all of the soldiers lower their weapons and begin walking.

Noah keeps me tucked behind him to hide me from their curious stares. At one point, some of them were getting too close and comfortable to his liking and he had to quietly growl at them so that they'd back up and give us some space. "Excuse my intrusion, Council member William," the first soldier says, not intending for anyone else to hear but we all do, "you know what your cousin's plans were, why bring the King's mate along? It might be a problem for..." "It won't be, I'll make sure of it," he says.

Satisfied, the soldier goes back to lead the group into their territory. William glances our way, winking at me and Noah.

I have to say, he's putting up a very convincing front, maybe a little too convincing.

When we reach the perimeters of the territory, the soldiers begin opening and searching our bags.

"Excuse me! What do you think you're doing?!" William protests.

"This are express orders from Queen Cecil, Your Grace, everyone entering these lands must be searched."

William glances at Eli and Caleb, both crossing their arms and frowning. Eli simply shrugs his shoulders, letting William know not to protest any further.

"Okay, everything seems to be in order. Please, come -

"I'm sorry, soldier, I didn't catch your name," Eli says.

"Oh, sorry my Lord, my name is Jeremy, at your service," he bows respectfully as he says this.

Jeremy seems quite polite, the one I'm not liking very much is this Queen Cecil.

"And tell me exactly why you keep calling my cousin, \*Queen\* Cecil?" William asks.

"Her Grace appointed herself the Queen of her land ever since King Alistair took over the throne, it's all I've known her as my entire life," he says, obviously understanding the

implications of calling her 'Queen' in front of the actual King. His head stays low while the rest of us process what he said.

After a moment of silence, Caleb clears his throat.

"Well, Jeremy, I think it's about time we meet this Queen of yours."

Caleb comes close to Jeremy and pats his back, making him lightly flinch.

"Yes, of course, please follow me." [SEARCH THE WEBSITE TO ACCESS CHAPTERS OF NOVELS EARLY AND IN THE HIGHEST QUALITY.](#)

Once we are let in, the house looks like a mini castle. All of the outer walls are made of thick stone, like a small fortress. There is a vast garden as we walk in, one that has been undoubtedly neglected. There are wild flowers overtaking the entire space and crawling up the stone walls. The entrance is big, but nowhere near as big as the Castle's. The sight would be quite beautiful had it been properly taken care of. The front of the home also has high windows and several floors. It's quite pretty in a quaint way. "Why is the family not living at the main house?" William asks Jeremy.

"This home is farther from rogue territory and easier to defend, if it came to it. It also has passage ways that lead to the forest as a means to escape. It's safer."

"I see."

Just before we make our way up the small set of stairs that lead to the entrance, the wooden doors fly open, revealing a beautiful blonde woman in an elaborate, long sun dress. "Cousin! Oh, cousin! It's been so long!"

"Cecil," William says, opening his arms for the fakest embrace I have ever witnessed.

They both air kiss each other's cheeks and laugh.

"Cousin, I'd like you to meet Caleb, former beta of the great King Alexander, Eli, the current King's beta, and of course, His Highness and Lord of this Kingdom, Noah."

"Oh, my," she says, as she curtsies to Noah.

The gesture is so over the top I have to fight the urge to roll my eyes.

"Your Highness, thank you for making the treacherous journey to our humble home, my daughter, Violet, has been so excited she's barely gotten any sleep," she says.

When she lifts her eyes from the floor, they land directly on me, her smile falling.

"And who's this?" She asks, her tone a little too high.

No one answers, soon her eyes land on my neck and then on Noah's. Her expression sours.

"Queen Cecil," Noah breaks the silence, "I'd like you to meet Vera, my mate."

"Mate?! No one said anything about a ma -"

"Ah, cousin! Do you still produce your famous apples here? I've been talking nonstop about the apple pies of this region; His Highness has been looking forward to them!" William quickly diverts the attention from me, grabbing Cecil by her shoulders and turning her towards the home.

Before disappearing within the home, she takes one last look at me, eyes narrowed, throwing daggers my way.

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## The Rise Of The King Chapter 3

-Vera-

"Ok, level with me. Why the hell am I here?" I stand, drawing Caleb's, Eli's, Lucas's, and William's attention.

Noah has been kidnapped by this Queen Cecil to give him a 'private' tour of the property; as if there's much to see. Of course, none of us were invited. That's not even what annoys me, what I'm angry about is feeling like I'm the unwanted third wheel. They didn't even know about me? William didn't even attempt to introduce me? What the hell is going on here?

"You might as well tell her, William, I told you this was a bad idea," Caleb says, sipping out of his tea mug.

I turn to William who is nervously fidgeting with his fingers.

"And?!" I slam the table, making him flinch.

"I - I mean I did say that the families wanted their daughters considered to be Noah's wives, and and ..." "And?"

William is quiet again; he has not once looked me in the eyes since we got here.

"Oh, just spit it out," Eli says exasperated. He also didn't know anything about this, "it is one thing to tell them their daughters would be considered, but to not even tell them Noah has a mate? What the fuck were you thinking?"

"Fine." Caleb says, putting his mug down, "according to lycan tradition, none of us here have a right to deny any of these women the right to marry the King, not even the King himself. All of these women are lycan, they have money and influence and are allegedly beautiful; there is no acceptable reason why the King wouldn't marry any of them. Which is where you come in. The only way they'll keep their hands off of him is if you challenge them to a duel; the victor has a right to be with the King, and the other one has to give up any notions of ever becoming Queen."

I gape at him.

Eli almost chokes on his tea; he's bent over laughing.

"You can't be serious," Lucas says, not taking his eyes off of Caleb.

"I can't," Eli wheezes, "I can't believe this."

He's wiping tears off of his face.

"So, we literally have to fight for a man? How archaic are you people?!"

"Sorry, we didn't make the rules," Caleb says not the least bit apologetic, returning to drinking his tea.

I cross my arms and narrow my eyes at William.

"We knew that if we told you and Noah, he wouldn't want to come, but this is the only way for the families to meet with him, and the only possible excuse for him not to take any wife is you," William says, truly apologetic.

"Oh, come on doc, it's not like you can't take them! It'll be great practice," Eli is coughing after laughing so much.

"Oh, I'm aware, but how do you think they'll like being beaten by a wolf? Huh? Did any of you even think about that? Not to mention I won't even have to turn to make them eat dirt."

All of them stare at each other, Lucas shrugging his shoulders.

"All I know is I run faster than all of you, I'll be able to outrun this crazy before they come for our heads," he says.

"We didn't... we didn't think about that," William admits, clearing his throat.

"New plan," Caleb says, realization dawning on him, "lets keep these women as far away from Noah as possible. Deal?"

"Deal," they all say in unison.

"Speaking of, I better get out there before my cousin marries him to Violet without us knowing." William says, excusing himself before leaving.

"Unbelievable," I mumble to myself.

"I can't take this anymore!"

We all turn to the entrance of the tiny dining hall they placed us in; one that I'm sure is intended for the help.

"Noah? What are you doing here?" Caleb asks.

"I had to escape! She's fucking crazy. In just an hour, she not only offered her daughter to me, she offered herself!"

Eli bursts out laughing again, harder this time, spitting out his tea.

"I can't," he says under his breathe, "this trip is the best one of my life."

He starts coughing uncontrollably again as Noah takes a seat next to me.

"So have you met this Violet everyone keeps mentioning?" I ask him.

"No, but it's as if I have, she has portraits of her hanging \*everywhere," he takes my tea mug and starts sipping from it.

"Did you know Vera has to fight these women for your hand in marriage?" Lucas says. [SEAR\\*ch the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.](#)

"She what?!"

Noah places down the mug forcefully, turning to Caleb who puts his hands up defensively.

"To be fair, I told them it was a bad idea to lie to you two."

"No, absolutely not. We are out of here, come on."

He takes my hand and begins to stand, but I don't budge.

"The hell we are!" I yell, "we came here for a reason, Noah, and if you have to parade your pretty little ass in front of these women as bait, you \*will\*. Then, you leave them to me."

I snatch my hand away from his and cross my arms.

I'm in a terrible mood; maybe the lack of sex is getting to me too. But it is a reality, the kingdom is in dire need of these families' assistance, otherwise everything we have worked for so far goes to hell. "Unbelievable," Noah sits beside me, crossing his arms as well.

"There's one more thing," Caleb says.

Noah and I turn to him at the same time; he looks almost apologetic.

"You two will have to sleep in separate rooms."

"What?!"

We both yell at the same time.

"Again, don't kill the messenger, but these are old customs that these people are not ready to be

rid of. The King only shares a bed with his actual wife during official visits."

"Fine!" I say, completely done with lycan tradition and stupidity.

"Fine!" Noah says too, but it's directed at me.

He gets up hastily and exits the room.

"Great. Now we are fighting too," I say, cradling my throbbing head on my hand and closing my eyes.

"Uhm, excuse me?" Jeremy walks in, "Queen Cecil has asked me to see you all to your rooms."

"Yes, thank you, Jeremy." Caleb says, standing up.

"Please follow me," Jeremy says.

After walking outside of the home, Jeremy leads us to a somewhat abandoned cabin, one that once again, was definitely designated for the help. Not that I mind, of course, but I'm sure this Queen is trying her hardest to keep us away from Noah; to keep \*me\* away from Noah.

When I take a step inside the small cabin, Jeremy stops me.

"I'm sorry, missus, the Queen as asked me to see you to the barn."

"The..." I'm honestly too shocked to even say the word; but am I really surprised?

"I'll take her spot in the barn, it's no place for a woman to sleep," Lucas steps up, putting his hand on my shoulder; I smile up to him gratefully.

"I understand." Jeremy says.

I almost feel bad for Jeremy; all this time he's looked almost embarrassed to carry out his Queen's orders. I'm sure it's not beyond him how ridiculous his "Queen\*" is being, but he can't do anything to stop her. Caleb comes to stand next to me as I watch Jeremy and Lucas head to the barn,

"When I fight this Violet for Noah, can I kill the Queen too?" I ask him, not taking my eyes away from Lucas,

Caleb chuckles.

"I'm not gonna lie, I'd pay to see you do that. Come on, let's get set up, they invited us over for dinner at the main house," he puts his hand on my shoulder and guides me inside the cabin.

I take one last look at Lucas and Jeremy at the same time that Jeremy happens to look my way. I narrow my eyes at him and even in the distance, I see him shutter.

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## **The Rise Of The King Chapter 4**

-Vera-

After we finished setting up in the cabin, we all get ready for dinner. Thankfully, I had been warned about the dress code before-hand so it gave me a chance to pack up some dresses.

The dress I'm wearing is a black, fitted dress which represents my mood perfectly. It has an off shoulder sleeve and a slit on one of my legs. The jewelry is minimal; I brought along some emerald earrings that match the necklace Dr. Owens gave me, which I never take off. When I walk out of my room, all the men are already waiting for me dressed up in their formal wear; when approach them, they all turn to look at me up and down.

No one says a word.

I raise an eyebrow at them.

"Will this be a problem?" Eli asks Caleb and William who are almost gaping at me at this point.

"No, probably not, at least I don't..." William begins.

"It most definitely will be a problem," Caleb interrupts him, sounding amused.

"Perfect, let's go," Eli says, offering me his arm for support.

I gratefully snake my arm on his and we walk to the main house.

When we reach the doors that lead to the dining room, the hairs all over my body rise in awareness. Without looking, I know Noah is in there. As the doors open, I catch a whiff of his scent and to my surprise, when the room is revealed, he is already looking directly my way.

All of my body is on fire just by his stare; I can't take my eyes off of him, and he's having a hard time taking his eyes off of me.

I know they say distance makes the heart grow fonder but this is on another level. Only one day apart and we're both planning on jumping on this table right here, right now. Visit to read the complete chapters for free. Some sentences are incomplete if you are not reading this novel on Job ni b. com. Soon, I'm sitting on a chair at the far end of the table away from him; I didn't even realize we were still moving when I saw him. For me, it's as if time had stopped. Someone clears their throat loudly, drawing my attention. It's Cecil.

I look down at my hands, embarrassed. I'm sure everyone knows what Noah and I are thinking right now

"As I was saying," I didn't realize she was speaking, "it is the honor of this manor to host His Royal Highness and his party," she pauses, looking at me, "well, most of it anyway," she says quietly, "so cheers! May this be the beginning of a lovely and \*long\* relationship between our families!"

She raises her glass and everyone raises theirs to cheers.

I can't stomach it. In fact, I'm going to have a hard time eating any of the food with the thoughts I have on my mind; I'm sure Noah is feeling the same way. Ever since I walked in here, the air has become electrified.



Suddenly, after the first course is done, the doors open dramatically, interrupting my thoughts and drawing everyone's attention. Behind them, a beautiful young woman enters, escorted by none other than Jeremy. She has beautiful long, blonde hair and stunning blue eyes. Her rosy cheeks and colored lips are very clearly the result of makeup, but it was tastefully done. Her jewelry is dainty, modest even, and her dress is like a ball gown.

"Ah, my dear, dear child! Always late to dinner after tending to the help's meals. Your Highness, "Cecil gets up and walks towards her daughter. "may I introduce to you my daughter and future Queen, Violet."

Violet bows gracefully and everyone is holding their breath, waiting for Noah's reaction.

I don't turn to look at him like everyone else, I'm looking straight at her, not removing my eyes for a second.

My ears are ringing.

I narrow my eyes at her, though no one is watching.

It's incredibly faint, but there is undoubtedly the presence of magic here, and I'm sure it's coming from her.

Could she be a witch too? Could her powers be dormant like mine were?

As far as I'm concerned, both of her parents are lycan.

Unless...

I turn to look at the decoration within the room which hosts a large portrait of the family. I specifically focus on the portrait of the father and start comparing features. The only possible explanation for this, at the moment, is that her father was not in fact lycan. Maybe Queen Cecil is not as innocent as she'd like to pretend.

When I turn back to Violet and Cecil, they are both staring at me.

In fact, everyone is staring at me. It takes me by surprise and I gulp.

Could it be that they noticed me comparing the features of Violet and her supposed father?

Then, as if being called, I turn to Noah who is looking intently at me.

I see...

These past months we have noticed that Noah has also become quite attuned to my emotions, even if I offer no external hint of them. He probably felt my uneasiness and turned to me to see if everything was fine.

I nod my head with a smile, letting him know everything is fine, and this dinner nonsense can continue.

Noah stands up, courteous, and nods his head in Violet's direction.

"Very nice to meet you, Lady Violet," he says, very uninterested.

I notice Violet and Cecil exchange a look; Violet one of panic, and Cecil's one of anger.

She quickly glances my way and I can't help but smirk.

Now this is something that deserves a toast.

I lightly lift my cup towards her and smile at her, perhaps a little too sweetly.

She's nearly turning red in anger.

I don't really know what her plan was, but I'm sure it involved Noah swooning over her daughter who is indeed very beautiful.

Cecil and Violet move to sit next to Noah.

The rest of the dinner proceeds as expected; Cecil and Violet trying to woo Noah who simply nods and smiles at everything they say, completely unamused. Cecil and Violet take turns to throw daggers my way, as I happily drink and chat the night away. "So, Vera, what was that stink eye you were throwing Violet? A little jealous perhaps?" Eli says.

"You wish, old man," I sip on my wine, "remember I told you that whenever \*that\* is around, I can sense it? My ears ring and all?"

"Sure."

"Well, there was ringing."

Caleb and Eli stare at me, turning serious.

"Don't worry about it, it's very faint, I don't think it'll be a problem, but the thought did cross my mind that maybe Cecil is hiding a few things from us."

"And you're sure it was coming from her?" Caleb asks, almost whispering.

I lean close to him, melodramatically.

"I'm positive."

They both lean back on their chairs, deep in thought. I finish my wine and decide it's been enough for me for the night. I have a slight buzz that I'm sure will help me sleep in that horrendous cabin.

"Oh friends! How are you enjoying your night?" William comes sit with us, avoiding all the chatter amongst the guests which include several of his cousins, nephews, and uncles. It's clear he's also been drinking, perhaps a little heavier than I. "William," Caleb nods, icy.

"What's going on?"

"Well, where to start? Lucas had to volunteer to guard one of the gates because this manor doesn't have enough soldiers, if you can even consider these teenagers that, and you, \*friend\* are a lying piece of shit." Eli says, downing his drink in one gulp. "I- I don't understand. What's going on?"

William is genuinely taken aback by the accusation.

"Vera's ears were ringing." Caleb explains in a whisper.

It really is enough of an explanation.

"Wait, wait wait wait. We don't know for sure if that means anything, right? I mean, this is my family, they would never..."

William turns to me, helplessly.

I shrug.

"Sorry, it means exactly what they're implying."

"I'm sure there's an explanation for this, I'll get to the bottom of this, I swear."

"What we are saying, William, is that this is already a compromising position we are in, deceiving these families, on top of being at a heavily under protected location where one of us even has to take up \*guard shifts\* and \*you\* couldn't warn us about any of it. And now there's magic here? I will advise Noah we leave tomorrow, damn this Council plan, you lazy bastards can't even do your due diligence," Caleb says, standing up abruptly and excusing himself, "Your Highness," he bows to Noah before leaving, not waiting to be dismissed.

Noah frowns, staring at me looking for any hint of what happened. I shake my head in response; it's not worth getting into right now.

The night passes by slowly, Eli and I keep chatting while William sits with us looking sober and guilty.

"Vera," I hear Noah call me after a while, interrupting my conversation with Eli.

I perk up at the sound of his voice.

"Come sit next to me," he says.

I hesitate for a moment, but the hostile look on Cecil's face encourages me to come closer. Boy is she about to have a rude awakening if she thinks she can intimidate me like this.

"Your Highness," I bow in front of him before taking the seat he's offering, knowing damn well the effect it will have on him, "Queen Cecil here was wondering how a \*wolf\* could help us defeat Alistair."

"Oh, I could walk you through how I killed him, but I'm sure it would be much too gruesome for your liking. Queen."

I smile sweetly at her, shock briefly crossing her expression.

"Your Highness, I was under the impression that you killed the false King." Violet says.

"Oh no, I was incapacitated by a witch. Vera took him out."

Violet gulps, not daring to look my way as I'm sure she feels my stare burrowing on the side of her face.

"Which is why, witches are not welcomed in this Kingdom. Any trace of any use of magic is punishable by death." I declare.

Noah briefly glances my way, but dares not to comment. Of course, this isn't true otherwise I'd be the first to be put to death, but I smell a rat and this might help flush it out. Violet instantly turns to look at her mother, who is staring at me defiantly; Violet's reaction confirms my suspicion. Something is indeed up with these two.

"Uhm... I, Your Highness, I'm terribly sorry but I am not feeling well all of a sudden, if you'll excuse me." Violet says, curtsying and leaving in a hurry. [search the website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

I watch her run out of the room as I casually take a sip off of Noah's wine glass. He watches amused while Cecil is, without a doubt, planning my murder.

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## The Rise Of The King Chapter 5

Vera-

The dinner ended soon after Violet left. Eli joined us at the head of the table and excused himself, having offered to take up Lucas's place in the night guard shift so that he can have something to eat. This earned Cecil an angry look from Noah, which was her cue to call it a night. She excused herself to run after her daughter.

The problem was, however, that she took Noah with her, offering to see him to his room. He accepted and followed her; I'm assuming he's still mad at me.

I sighed and excused myself with the rest of the guests, some of which were too drunk to make it to their rooms so I have reason to believe they'll sleep in here.

As I walk out of the manor, this time without an escort, I take my shoes off and instead of going directly to the cabin, I decide to sit in the garden for a moment.

These past months I have also been training with my aunt and grandmother in their realm; we have found out that in my world my magic can be traced, but in their realm it's nearly impossible.

I find a patch of grass to sit on and cross my legs as I sit. The temperature is nice, the wind carries a chill with it that hints at how close we are to the mountains. I put my hands on the soil, reveling on the connection I feel to it.

During my training, we have figured out that I am innately connected to nature. We don't really know why as it's quite rare for any type of witch, but to me it makes sense; everything in nature is living, and that's what I'm connecting to. To me the trees, the plants, the soil are as alive as any of us and somehow, we manage to communicate.

What's even weirder, is that I have been feeling this connection since before they unlocked my magic; so, since before I had my wolf.

Speaking of her, as I'm concentrating and meditating, she comes join me in my mind.

\*Hi, pretty girl.\*

I smile at her as she lays her head on my lap. I gently caress her head as we both take in our surroundings.

She does in fact have white, grey eyes, and her fur is just as Caleb described it; iridescent. It's pale white but it shifts in tone frequently, depending on the angle and the light. Now that I have been able to see her up close, it's almost as if she shines.

I feel bad that I haven't been able to let her out in a while. Even if she seems perfectly content within me, she is also a living creature; part of me but an individual in her own right. She deserves to roam freely, often. So far, she hasn't even been able to fully explore her magic since we haven't been able to practice in my world.

She perks up, alerting me to something.

I pay closer attention to the direction she's looking. She slowly moves her head to a side, as if she's following something or someone. \*What is it?\*

She turns to me and places her nose to mine, letting me in on what she sees.

Beyond the garden, beyond the walls of the manor, she's following a shiny silhouette that seems to be of a woman, right behind the vines. \*Who is she?\* I ask her.

For now, all I know is that she seems to be interested in this silhouette for some reason.

Then, the person disappears and we can no longer track her.

I stay seated next to my wolf who turns to look at me.

From Sophia, I know I should have a fluent connection to my wolf, understand everything she means without her even talking, but for some reason I can't. There's a lot of interpretation going on every time I see her, but I know nothing for sure. She places her head back on my lap and I caress her for a while longer. Then, her ears perk up again but this time it's something outside of my mind, something in the 'real world.'

"Oh. Lucas! Hi." I say, opening my eyes and relaxing my posture.

"Hi Vera, I thought I smelled you. What are you doing out here?"

"I needed time away from all of this," I gesture at the manor, "I think I made a mistake by coming here."

"I think we all made a mistake by coming here."

He comes to sit beside me.

"I didn't get to thank you for taking my place at the barn, Lucas, it can't be comfortable."

"You won't be thanking me tomorrow when Eli's snores keep you up all night," he says, taking a bite off of a piece of bread.

We stay silent for a while, enjoying the cool air and the garden.

"Vera, how did you know Noah was your mate?"

"What?"

"How did you know it was him?"

His question takes me by surprise, but I think back to the day we met.

"I didn't really know, Lucas, I just knew that when I touched him, something happened. Had it not been for him literally telling me I was his mate, I wouldn't have known." "And then what happened?"

"Well, I don't know that I'm the most reliable source, since I hadn't connected to my wolf, but there was... electricity... when I touched him, maybe not as strong as he felt it, but it was there. And I was just... drawn to him... naturally. I wanted to know him, I wanted to follow him. It wanted to be with him."

Lucas finishes his piece of bread but stays silent.

"Why do you ask?" I ask, letting my curiosity get the best of me.

"I was meaning to ask Noah, but he's been so busy lately."

"Have you...?"

"What? No! No, it's not like that. I've just been feeling a little queasy for some reason. It started

on our way here, I haven't figured out what it is and it's making me uneasy."

"Do you think your mate could be close?"

"I don't know..."

He looks worried.

"Come on Lucas, you can talk to me."

"I just... I don't know... Do I even want to find a mate? You saw what happened to Liam... That could happen to any of us."

"It's a scary thing. Lucas, and what happened to Liam was brutal, but it's so rare. It's unlikely that we'll ever see that happen again. And look at me, I had to leave my \*home\*

to be with Noah and I have not regret it once," well, maybe at first, but a white lie can't hurt, right?

He sighs.

"You're probably right. I just... I hope if she is indeed close, that she won't be disappointed that I'm her mate."

I put my hand on his and squeeze it gently.

"Lucas, you're one of the best people I know. You're loyal, caring, and quite a gentleman. Any girl would be lucky to have you as her mate."

He smiles faintly at me.

"Thank you, V."

We stay out here a little while longer, until the chill starts to really get really cold.

"We should go, from what Eli told me, we'll be leaving pretty early tomorrow, we'll need the rest."

Lucas extends his hand and offers it to me, helping me up.

I take it and we begin walking to the cabin.

Once at the door, he says his goodbyes and leaves for the barn; I really hope it's at least warm enough for him to sleep well.

I enter my room, a lot more exhausted than I'd thought, and change into my pajamas. Unfortunately, since I'm sharing the cabin with Caleb and Eli, I have to wear pants.

I fall asleep promptly, wrapping myself up in the blanket that has probably been laying on this bed for years. It's still cold, but comfortable enough to sleep through. Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

In the middle of the night, something wakes me; the feeling of someone crawling on my bed.

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