Warrior Princess Chapter 41

Kasens POV

"We are just congratulating my sister on her pregnancy. She announced it this morning." I tell him and he smiles a wicked smile.

"Another royal baby. What a wonderful surprise. This is big news." I don't like the way he says that. The double meaning behind his words. Sam grabs my hand and I instantly calm down.

"Will you be joining us for breakfast, Jenson?" She asks. He shakes his head.

"I'm afraid not. There are a few emergencies that have come up and we are needed back at the Council immediately. Thank you all so much for your hospitality. It has been enlightening being here with you all." I'm sure it has fucker.

"Let me walk you out." I say leaving no room for debate.

We get to the SUV that is taking them to the airport.

"If there is anything the council can do for you, you know how to reach us. I'm sure we'll be meeting again real doon, King Kasen." he says with an edge to his voice. I nod and shake his hand in a tight grip. They climb in the car and they're gone.

'Marcus I need you and your best warriors to check the castle for any planted bugs or devices. Also, run a sweep through our security systems and cameras. Make sure no viruses were planted.' I link and he responds with a yes alpha. I prepare to do a pack wide link.

'Mandatory pack meeting at 11AM. No excuses everyone must be there unless you have been specifically told not to by myself, your queen, Beta or Gamma.' I shut my link off so I don't get the numerous replies and join my mate back in the kitchen.

"What do you say we go do our rounds before the meeting?" She nods.

"Josh, make sure the meeting in the throne room is prepared. There is a USB drive on my desk for the projector that I want to use." He bows his head. Showing respect infront of the others.

"Yes, alpha."

"So where would you like to go first?" I ask her and she thinks.

"Let's go to the child care facility first then we can make our rounds to the warrior barracks, training grounds and the border posts." I smile and say.

"Alright, then let's go!" I grab her hand and we walk to our destination.

The childcare facility is not far from the Castle. It's a cute little building with a playground, side walk covered in chalk drawings, a flower and vegetable garden, and benches covered by the shade of trees. There are tons of children all ages 10 and under playing outside. It's the first warm day in a while and they seem to be taking advantage of it. I usually come here every couple of days to play with the kids and meet with the care takers, but it has been a couple of weeks since my last visit due to everything going on. I've sent Josh in my place.

"ALPHA." I hear a few kids squeal and run towards me. Atlas perks up. He loves playing with the children. A little boy about 5 years old jumps into my arms and I catch him and toss him up into the air.

"Mikey, it's been a while how are you doing little man?" I ask and he frowns.

"Im not a little man. I'm a big man. My momma says so!" I smile. I make sure to say hi to all of them.

"Can you play with us today? We've missed you!" they all ask.

"Go on. Have fun, I'll talk with the teachers," Sam nudges me with a smile.

"Alright, let me use the bathroom real quick then ill come out." I say. They jump, squeal and, shout their excitement. They are truly good kids.

Samanthas POV

Kasen had gone to the restroom and I met with the teachers that were huddled together watching over the kids while they played. Since it's a weekend they're only here while their parents work. I even learned that the orphanage we have here lets the kids play here as well. I make a mental note to check on them as well. I look at my watch and realize Kasen has been gone a while. I hear a shout and a horde of giggles.

"Don't let him catch you!" they shout.

I look and sure enough a jet-black wolf with blue eyes is trotting after the children. I smile and I and the teachers look on in wonder chatting about how things are going here and for them personally. I look back over at my mate and see he's giving 2 children a ride on his back while another clings to his tail. He's got a big wolfy grin on his face and it makes my whole body hum with excitement. He is so good with the kids. He is going to be a great dad someday.

'I agree, little one. Just look at that sight right there.' Akira says practically drooling over her mate. I have an idea.

"Would you ladies mind if I joined them?" I ask.

"Not at all." They say and I walk to the bathroom where Kasen had likely stored his clothes. Sure enough his suit is folded neatly on the shelf. I take my clothes off and fold them next to his. I make sure to prop the door open, so I won't have to worry about trying to open them with paws. Opposable thumbs are kind of helpful when opening doors.

'What if the kids don't recognize us and get frightened?' I ask Akira.

'Calm down. They will recognize our scent. After fully mating with Kasen, we have attained part of his scent as well. And the aura we put off screams Luna and queen. They'll recognize you. They'll love you.' She says and I smile. I shake out my nerves and shift. Landing on my paws I look at us in the mirror.

'Our fur looks super fluffy and thick today!' I say and Akira chuckles.

I walk towards the playground my nails clicking on the floor as I trot along. I sit in the doorway and watch for a second. Everyone seems to be playing except for a little boy sitting by himself under a tree. Looking at everyone with a sad far off look.

'Him. Play with him.' Akira commands.

'Alright, alright, bossy. I was going to play with him anyways. He looks so lonely' I look at the teachers and they all bow to me with a smile.

'Who is the little boy by the tree?' I link the lead teacher. Her name is Joy.

'His name is Shawn. He is one of the orphans that comes to play with us. He is 5 years old today. His parents had died in a rogue attack when he was just an infant.' She says.

'He's been at that orphanage since he was a babe.' I whine to Akira.

'Is he always this shy or closed off?' I ask and she nods.

'He has had a hard time making friends. He did have one friend at the orphanage, but she had gotten adopted about 6 months ago and he has been closed off ever since. We can't get him to talk or play.' She says with a frown.

I nod and I trot up to the tree. He's facing away from me and doesn't notice me. I sit and wrap my tail around my body. He's staring at Kasen and his wolf playing with the others. He looks like he's about to cry. I lean down and lick his cheek and nuzzle his face. He jumps, startled at first. He looks deep into my eyes and I can tell he isn't afraid.

"I know you! Will you play with me?" he asks quietly. I nod my head and lick his cheek again and he closes his book. I look at it and see it's 'Horton hears a Who' by Dr Seuss.

I nudge him with my snout trying to get him to stand up. He shakes his head. That's okay. I take my paw and boop him on the forehead. He

giggles. His smile is so cute. His ember eyes and his blonde hair. He is a cute kid.

'I like him. I want to keep him.' Akira says to me.

'WHAT?' I ask her.

'I meant exactly what I said. I want to keep him. He is mine now.' She says with certainty. Um, what just happened?

He reaches up and touches the side of my head and grips my fur lightly. "You're a pretty wolf." Shawn tells me. I yip at him. I gently grab his shirt between my teeth and pull him up. I lay down on my belly and look at him. He looks at me with his head tilted to the side.

"Want me to climb on?" he asks. I nod my head and he smiles. I could get used to seeing that kid smile. He climbs on and I stand up.

"Whoa!" he shouts and sways a bit. I nudge his foot with my snout and he leans forward gripping my fur.

"This is so cool!" he giggles out. I look to the teachers and they have a look of awe on their face, and Joy is crying.

I look towards the others and then turn my head slightly back to look at him. As if asking permission to join the others. He looks down and almost as if he wants to shut down again. I yip at him. He looks up at me and I yip again and point my nose towards the others.

Kasen is standing still watching me with him. The other kids running around underneath him hiding in between his legs and his fur. Shawn looks like he's contemplating a major life decision. His nose is scrunching and his eyebrows are furrowed. He finally relaxes and nods his head. I give a low 'Aroooo' showing him my approval and excitement.

I trot over to my mate and he rubs his head against mine and under towards my neck sifting through my fur. I purr and I hear Shawn giggle.

"That tickles." I says. I smile.

'How did you get him to come play?' Kasen asks.

'I don't know. Akira told me to go play with him. I sat next to him, spooked him a little. Kissed his head, booped him on the nose, and just sat with him. I didn't really do anything. He just said he knew who I was and wanted to play with me.' He looks from me to Shawn. Shawn is looking at him curiously. 'I should mention one more thing...' I say cautiously. He looks at me and I'm sure if he was in human form he would be arms crossed and eyebrow raised.

'Go on.' he said. Smug bastard.

'Well, you see...' I start to say.

'Oh come on. Do it.' Akira says to me. He boops me on my snout with his paw.

'Well?' he asks.

'Akira wants to keep him.' I say and she huffs.

'You know you want to too.' she says.

'Her exact words were 'I like him, he's mine now.' and well there's no arguing with her. He doesn't say anything. Just looks at me and I feel like I've crossed a line. I know he wants kids of his own, but I don't know how he feels about a child that isn't his.

A few minutes go by and I lower my head feeling sad and somehow empty. Akira whines at his lack of response. He nips at my ears and I look up with my head still lowered.

'His name is Shawn. I knew his parents. They died when he was a month old. It was a rogue attack. I was still training under my father to become king. They were friends with me, Josh, and Marcus. He's always been a bit reserved but has never had any trouble opening up to me, or the guys. That was until his best friend left the orphanage. He closed himself off.

Never wanted to talk or play with anyone including me. I've been trying to hard to get him to come out of his shell, but I didn't want to push him too hard. You managed to get him up, smiling, laughing, and playing in a matter of 15 minutes. He is smitten with you. When Akira said he was hers did she say anything else?' he asked.

'I had just shifted and came outside. We were sitting next to the teachers observing before I came out to play. I saw him sitting secluded and by himself. That was when she told me to go play with him. She wouldn't take no for an answer, not that I was going to say no.' I said. I felt Shawn playing with my ears and my fur. I smiled internally. 'I know you want kids of your own one day, but I know what I feel and what my wolf feels. I'm sorry to spring this on you. But I feel connected to him. Even more whole than I did before. I don't know how to explain it.' I say and he touches his head to mine.

Shawn reaches over and pets Kasens head. sifting his fingers through his black fur. Kasen stills. Not wanting to spook Shawn off. I sidestep my body so that I am standing shoulder to shoulder with him. Taking my tail and swaying it with his and pressing my head to his neck. Shawn is still petting Kasen, rubbing his neck, scratching him behind the ears. His tongue flops out and to the side and he kicks his back leg.

'Having fun there mister big bad alpha king?' I ask and he nips at me. Before I know it a weight is off my back. I look to make sure Shawn didn't fall only to see he has climbed onto Kasen. I sit and rub my head under his and on his neck.

'Yes. He is definitely mine now. No, take backsies.' Akira says. I project what she has been linking me to Kasen so he can hear her too.

'Mine, mine, mine, mine, he is mine.' She says on repeat. I feel Kasen's chest rumbling from his own contentment.

Warrior Princess Chapter 42

Samanthas POV

"Hey, that tickles!" he giggles out.

All of the other kids have come over to us and are sitting down. Panting and worn out. Well, at least they'll all sleep good tonight. Akira is still chanting mine in my head and my projection to Kasen is still wide open. I can hear him chuckling in the link. His deep voice sending chills down to the tip of my tail.

I lay down and sit with a group of the girls and they stroke my fur and put flowers all over me. I look over to see Kasen has taken Shawn and trotted over and is laying down on the ground with him. He's laying on his back rolling around and Shawn has the biggest smile on his face. I see Kasen lick Shawn's cheek and he throws his arms around his neck and falls on his knees. I feel the love and happiness that Kasen feels through our bond and I smile internally.

'We will talk later, love. I promise.' he links me, and I don't respond. He knows I am patient. I feel wonderful getting pampered by all of these lovely little ladies.

The boys are all hunkered down, playing card games and or relaxing. Kasen comes up with Shawn gripping his fur. Kasen nudges his back with his snout and Shawn walks over to the group of boys playing cards.

"Can I play with you?" he asked and they all looked ecstatic to have a new friend to play. Kasen comes over and lays down beside me with his head on my back. The girls switch from me to sticking flowers in his fur and brushing through the silky stands.

"You look so pretty Alpha!" one of the girls say and I chuckle in the link. He paws at the little girls but relents and lays down completely on his side and lets them give him a complete flower makeover.

"We need to get ready for the meeting. We have run out of time to visit the warriors and outposts. We can do that later or we can do it tomorrow." He tells me. He's right. We have spent a while here. He lets them finish brushing his fur and the last little kid finally shuts their eyes. Completely exhausted. We stand up and shake our fur and the petals fall to the ground.

'Dang I was really liking the whole hippie look, love.' I linked him and he nipped at my ear catching it between his teeth. We walked up to the teachers. Joy still crying. No words were spoken. We knew she was thankful.

"Where are you going, alpha?" I heard a little voice ask. Shawn.

'It's his birthday today...' I linked him.

'Let me get changed ill be right back.' he said. I sat next to Shawn and licked all over his face causing him to erupt in giggles.

"He has bonded with you." Joy says.

'My wolf wants to keep him.' I tell her and she smiles. Kasen came back fully dressed again and knelt next to him.

"Want to come with us today? We've got some meetings to go to and I could use a big man to help me out." He asked and Shawn just smiled and nodded his head so fast I was sure he was going to get whiplash. I went to go get shifted and changed and came back to see Shawn sitting on Kasen's shoulders.

Yup. He's mine.' Akira said.

We got back to the Castle and josh exited the throne room to see us coming in.

"UNCLE JOSH!" Shawn shouted. Josh looked startled but smiled so big.

"Hey, buddy I've missed you!" He said giving him a big hug.

"Hey Shawn, why don't you help Josh finish setting up for the meeting while Mrs Samantha and I finish getting ready?" Kasen said and Shawn nodded taking Josh's hand back into the throne room.

We hurry to the office to grab our crowns and whatever files we may need. He pulls me in for a hug and I take in his spicy big red cinnamon scent. It brings me warmth and calmness.

"I love you." I say. He squeezes me tighter.

"He is ours. I have loved that boy since he was born and seeing you with him today and getting him out of his shell only confirmed it. He is ours. Atlas has been saying it since we saw you sitting with him under the tree. The minute Shawn smiled Atlas went crazy in my head. He won't shut up about it much like Akira is right now. He is ours." He reassures me.

I kiss him and he straightens my crown, grabs my hand and says. "Alright. Let's go plan a war."

Kasens POV

We walk hand in hand towards the throne room. Well over 700 people, my pack, and visiting allies combined, are waiting beyond these walls.

"Are you ready?" I ask her.

"As ready as ill ever be. I just want this war to be over." I agree. She assessed my crown on my head, straightens out my suit. I cup her cheek and brush my thumb over her skin.

Without wasting another second, we go through the doors. Everyone stands still and quiet. My parents are on the stage standing behind my throne. Josh standing next to it. Jake and Gemma standing next to Samantha's throne with her parents standing behind hers. Shawn is holding Josh's hand.

'He is mine.' Atlas chants in my head.

'he is ours.' I correct him.

'But tell me how is it you didn't claim him the minute he became an orphan?' I ask him.

'The time was not right. I have always felt a connection with the pup. But seeing our mate with him grew that bond. He is ours.' He stated.

We get to our thrones and We both sit at the same time. Shawn surprised me and runs to Samantha and whispers in her ear. She smiles and nods. Picks him up and sets him in her lap.

"Everyone, please be seated." I say and on command they all sit.

"I'm sure you're all wondering why I have called everyone here. I'm afraid it is not good news that brings us all together. While the Council was supposedly here for the Mating Ceremony and Coronation, they had other priorities. The war that is transpiring between the supernatural realm and the bear kingdom seems to be bigger than everyone could have imagined. I know some of you are aware of the Council aligning with them, but as of today, we have all of the proof we need. Jenson, one of the Werewolves on the Council has been feeding the bear king intel about our pack, our kingdom, and specific information about strategies, warriors, layouts, you name it he had it and sold it. In result of all the information that was given, We received notification that instead of in spring which would have given us a few months to prepare and train, the war has been moved up." I say. Pausing to let them gather their thoughts and take in what I've said. Alpha Aaron steps forward and bows in respect.

"My king, how long do we have to prepare?" he asks.

"We have 7 days." I say. There are whispers, gasps, sounds of fear.

"Everyone please remain calm. We have always been prepared for battles and war. This will be no different. We will take the week to prepare more, train harder, and most importantly I want you to spend your time with your loved ones. Family is the most important thing and that is what we are trying to protect here. The bear king is looking to take control of the world. Not just the supernatural kingdom. We would all turn slaves to them if we were to lose. We won't. We have too much at stake. Each and every one of you plays an important part in this war. Our leaders will be meeting separately today to discuss strategy in further

detail. But for now, everyone deserved to have notice." I say. The Alphas in the room all nod. My pack members look scared, but who isn't?

"Remember, we are all in this together. We are more than a pack, more than a kingdom. We are all family. We are only as strong as our weakest link. No one is truly weak. Everyone matters, everyone is just as important as my mate or myself. The only way to win this war is together. We value each other, respect, family and most importantly, love. That is something the bear king doesn't have. He fights with greed, lies, anger, and hunger. He is so blinded by his greed and thirst for power he is blinded by the true power. Love, and trust. We all need to trust one another." Samantha says.

I grab her hand and rub circles on her palm and ruffle Shawn's hair with my other hand. He looks deep in thought but doesn't speak. We will get there.

"We will stand with you. We will fight with you." The witches said in unison. The vampires here all agreed and knelt, the wolves here bowed.

"Thank you all. We won't keep you all day. Alphas, Meeting after dinner this evening. 8PM. Gammas and Lunas are welcome to join as well. But it is mandatory for all alphas," I say letting every ounce of my Alpha aura show through.

While everyone is filing out, I look to my family. Not everyone here is blood, but they are family none the less. I will protect my family. At all costs.

"How did you guys get Shawn to come out of his shell?" Josh asked.

"You need to ask her." I said inclining my chin to my mate with a smile.

"You did get a wonderful mate. She has been a fantastic friend to me and has proven that she is perfect for you and this kingdom" he says. I look at Sam and Shawn and I feel the warmth spread over my body.

"It's good to see him smiling again." Gemma said. Mom and dad came over too.

- "Can we go play now?" Shawn asks while tugging on my pants leg.
- "Yeah, buddy. We can go play." I say and pick him up.
- "We will talk before the meeting." I say to everyone and grab Sam's hand and we go to our apartment.
- "How do you feel about coloring? I have some paints and crayons?" Samantha asks. He smiles big and nods. We get to the apartment and Sam gets everything set up for him. We sit on the sofa while he colors.
- "So, I know both our wolves are claiming him. But what do you think?" I ask her quietly so Shawn cannot hear.
- "He's all alone. To hear he hadn't smiles, laughed, or played with anyone in over 6 months broke my heart, Kasen. I felt drawn to him the moment I laid eyes on him. I feel so protective over him, and I feel even more whole with him here with us. I don't know how to explain it." I drape my arm over her shoulder and rub circles with my fingertips.
- "I feel the same. I always had. When I asked Atlas about why he didn't claim him before he said the time was not right. Atlas was waiting for his mate. He was waiting for you. And him seeing you with him kicked him into overdrive." I say and she leans her head on me.
- "So does that mean what I think it means? I know we haven't been together but a couple of months, but we are soulmates. This is how our kind works. I was in love with you the minute I laid eyes on you. We move fast, and we love hard."
- I smile. "What do you think it is that I'm saying?" I ask. I want her to tell me.
- "I want to adopt him. Make him an Edwards." Almost as if he knows we're talking about him, he looks up at us.
- "Hey Shawn, come here for a sec." I ask. He walks over and sits between us.
- "Tell me about your day." I ask.

"Well, I was pretty lonely at first. But then Mrs Sam came over and played with me. Her wolf is very pretty and soft

I chuckle. "Yes, she is. Her wolf's name is Akira!" he looks so starstruck.

"I have a wolf. His name is Sampson." he says. I look to sam and she looks at me.

"You have a wolf already?" she asks.

"Yeah, I've had him for as long as I can remember. He is my only friend. He likes to talk to me all day." He says. He's only 5. He shouldn't have his wolf for another 10 years or so. Sam sees where my thoughts are going.

"Have you shifted yet?" she asks.

"What does shifting mean?" She rubs his head. Pushing his blonde hair back. His ember eyes looking at her quizzically.

"It means turning into your wolf form. Like what I was when I played with you. I was shifted into Akira." she said.

His mouth forms an 'O'. He shakes his head no. "Does that mean something is wrong with me?"

She hugs him tight. "No, of course not. You're perfect just the way you are. But let's keep this to ourselves for now. It can be our little secret right?" he smiles and nods his head.

"So, are you really the queen of us all? Sampson says that you are. He says that we should always protect and listen to you the same way we do to mister Kasen."

I think for a minute. 'Atlas, did you know he had his wolf yet?' I can feel him thinking through scenarios.

'No. But I never thought to try and sense him. He is too young to have him.' What could have made him gain his wolf early?

Warrior Princess Chapter 43

7 days until the war!

Kasens POV

"Hey Shawn, would you mind if I tried something?"

He shrugged. "What do you want to try?"

I poke his nose. "I want to talk to Sampson."

His eyebrows furrow. "How do you talk to Sampson?"

Sam takes over. "You just need to relax and Kasens wolf, his name is Atlas, will talk to Sampson. Is that okay?" he nods his head and closes his eyes. I try to link him.

'Sampson?' I ask through the link. Shawn's eyes open and they're as black as my fur. Proof that he does have his wolf.

"You wanted to speak with me my king?" his voice sounds of that of a teenager. It's strange hearing it come from a 5 year old.

"Yes, I did. I am curious as to why you have joined So early?"

He thinks for a moment. "You can trust me." his eyes meet mine. "I know I can. I know Shawn can. I have been with Shawn since that night. When the rogues attacked, they broke into the outer lands houses. Do you remember?" he asks. I nod. Sam watches us in awe.

"Well, they broke into my house. They were looting, braking things, that woke my mom and dad up. They fought one and the others searched for any others. They came into my nursery. I can't make out what they were saying from Shawn's memories it is all fuzzy. But they tried to take him. That's when our mother burst in the room and fought them. He was so scared. Too scared for a baby. The next thing I know I was bonded with him. I realized what was happening, the fear and the bonding was too much for his body. Our mom saw our shift happening. She calmed me

down enough to stop the shift. But that distracted her and opened up room for her death. Shawn blames himself. His memories play on repeat in his dreams when memories from infancy shouldn't even be able to be remembered. Shawn is special. The goddess told me so. But then so are you and My queen."

I don't have any words to say. He has been reliving that night his parents died. He remembers it all even though he was just a baby. He almost shifted as a baby.

"Thank you, Sampson." Samantha says. He bows.

"You never have to bow to me. If you know who I am and if you can reach out to our wolves then you know what is going on and how we feel." He smiles and leans into my mate.

"I know. This will be good for him. He will be happy." Sampson said. He blinks his eyes and they're back to the light brown color that we love.

"That was so cool! We've never done that before. Am I in trouble?" he asks.

"No buddy. You're not in trouble. We just wanted to talk to him too! And I want you to know. I need you to know that none of that night is your fault. Your parents loved you. Your parents were my friends." He has tears that finally spill over his eyes and down his cheeks. I take my thumb and wipe them away.

"But if I didn't make her calm me down she would be fine." He says. I pick him up and hug him.

"Shawn it isn't your fault. Trust me. Do you trust me?" he nods his head. I hug him.

"I and Mrs Samantha have a question for you, Shawn." he pulls back and switches his gaze from me to Samantha.

"We would like to know if you want to stay here?" she asks.

"For how long? Like a sleep over?" his little voice spoke up.

"We want to know if you want to be a part of our family. As in live here with me and Sam. We can never replace your mom and dad. But we want to become your other parents. If you are okay with it. We have fallen in love with you and our wolves love you. Both Atlas and Akira love you. We all want you to be ours." I say. He's processing the information.

"Like I would be your son? You would be my new mommy and daddy?" I nod. He doesn't say anything for a minute. His eyes fog over. He's talking to Sampson. Sam looks nervous and grabs my hand. I squeeze it.

"I would like that very much. I'm sorry, we would like that very much." he says. He throws his arms around me and Atlas purrs.

"That tickles!" he says and I chuckle.

"You are my little boy. I have loved you since the day you were born. I'm sorry, you spent so much time alone. But now is the right time. Now we are here."

He smiles. "Im not a little boy. I'm a big boy." He pouts and Sam runs her fingers through his hair.

"What about the War?" he asks. No doubt drawing from what he heard in the throne room.

"There are good and bad people in this world. Part of my job as King is to protect you and our kingdom from the bad people. A war is a fight between the good and the bad." He plays with the buttons on my shirt.

"So kind of like what happened to my first mom and daddy?"

I nod. "Everything will be okay buddy. I promise." and I mean it.

"I am going to keep all of us safe." I saw and surround both of them with my arms. He yawns and I look at my watch.

"Why don't we go eat some lunch and then you can take a nap?" I suggest and he nods.

"Where is my room going to be?" I have 3 extra bedrooms here. It is all a matter of what room he wants.

"You can pick any room you want. Well, get you whatever you want to decorate it. Now let's go to the kitchen and make some mac n cheese." He squeals. What kid doesn't like mac n cheese?

Were in the main kitchen in the palace since we didn't have all the things we needed here. Which reminds me we need to get more groceries. Shawn is sitting on the counter helping my mate stir everything in the pot.

"Ooooh, something smells good in here!" Jake says coming in with Gemma. As if on cue everyone else comes in. David and Lucy, my parents, Josh, Duke and Theo, Marcus and his mate Elena, Alpha Aaron, Alpha Caron, and his mate.

"My new mommy is helping me make Mac n Cheese!" Shawn shouts! Everyone stops talking and looks at me and Sam with an eyebrow raised.

"What?" Lucy says quietly.

"Surprise..." Sam said nervously.

"They said I can stay with them forever and that I can call them mommy and daddy!" Shawn piped in.

"I like that idea. Can I still be Uncle Josh?" I smirk. He thinks about it and nods.

"Son?" my dad asks.

"Our wolves claimed him. Both of our wolves actually. She went to talk to me about it and I was going to say the same thing when she asked. Our wolves conspired with us. But this was always my plan. It just wasn't the right time before. After seeing him talk to sam. The first person he's even sat with in 6 months made up Atlas' and my mind. He is mine." I said firmly. Atlas growled lowly making sure none of them thought otherwise.

"He is mine." I repeat.

"Ours." Sam said.

'Relax Bud no one is going to take him from us. They love him just as much as we do.' He calms down. Everyone has tears running down their faces.

"Why is everyone crying?" Shawn asked.

"Hey, if josh gets to be an uncle I want to be an uncle! I'll be the better cooler uncle!" Marcus says puffing our his chest and flexing his arms.

Elena smacks his chest but hugs Sam. Her parents hug me and Sam. Everyone seems happy with our decision.

All of a sudden Josh stiffens. His eyes turn black. Bliz is in control. I look to sam and she stops stirring the cheesy goodness. The front door of the palace slams open and I hear shouting.

"We need a Doctor!" I make my way to the living room and see a group of people and Jason covered in wounds and blood.

"We got out as fast as we could but one of the patrols at the border caught us. He's dead. No one knows we left." He says grunting in pain.

"Mate!"

I hear and josh runs to a girl standing at the front of the crowd. Her eyes dilate. She smells off though. Doesn't smell like just a bear but the scent is new to me.

"What is your name?" he asked her.

"Anna." she said.

"What are you anna?" I ask.

"I am a Hybrid. Im half bear, half Wolf." she says.

I've never met that combination before. I look to my dad and he is just as shocked as I am. She may be the first ever Wolf bear Hybrid recorded.

And then I think. Josh found his Second chance mate! And we have a room full of bear shifters ready to align with us. Then I'm brutally slapped back to reality.

We have a little less then 7 days now.

Samanthas POV

Josh found his Second chance mate, and she's a hybrid. I've never heard of a Bear/wolf Hybrid. There have always been human crosses, or maybe witch and wolf but id have to say this would be a first for me.

The Doc comes in and looks at Jason's wounds. Much to his protests I should say. Men and their stubbornness.

"Would you just shut your trap and let him look at you?" I say. He doesn't argue much after that.

"Anna, My name is Samantha. This is my mate Kasen. Welcome to the Royal pack. We are going to get you all set up with rooms. Do you happen to have a list of who is here, and how many children? What needs you all have for clothing, blankets, or anything?" she looks deep in thought. Probably wondering why I'm asking her and not anyone else.

"Im asking you because you are the mate of one of my Betas. Josh is like a brother to me which makes you family" I say with a smile which she returns.

"I don't but I can get you that information. Why do you need to know how many children are here though?" I can see why that would be sketchy.

"We have a daycare center, and a school. I would like to have children attend as long as their parents or guardians are okay with it. It will give them something to do while we are all training and focused on future events."

She nods. "We have roughly 75 people total. 15 children ages infant to 17. Everyone else is 18 and older."

Theo then speaks up. "only 75? Our numbers were well in the hundreds before I left." He said.

"We lost a lot in the attack at the border. Those we didn't lose were too afraid to leave. Things are bad back home my Prince."

He grabs her hand. "Anna you know you don't need to call me that. You're one of my good friends. How bad are things at home?"

She shudders at the thought. "It's bad Theo. Those who even think of speaking out against your father are publicly punished. One person died during their punishment last week for looking too long at your sister. He was whipped over 200 times. He was just 16. Looking at a pretty girl." She chokes on a sob. "Every male aged 17 and up has been drafted to fight. Rank or not. Jason has more information on that and such but what I've told you isn't even the half of it. I cannot even think of speaking the things we've seen the past few months."

I place my hands on her shoulders. "You're here now. You're safe here. Theo is mated to Kasens Brother. He can tell you about how we run things here." She straightens up.

"What do your women do here?" she asked. I smirked.

"We do whatever we want to do. We want to fight? We train to do so. We want to cook? Then we cook. There are no restrictions based on your gender here. We empower everyone. Granted we do force everyone to go through training at age 16. The type of training depends. But at 16 we mandate a basic self defense training. Just to make sure everyone here is capable of defending themselves. After that they choose what they want to do." Her face brightens and you can see she looks happy at the possibilities.

"So I have to ask. And I'm sorry if this is rude. But which animal is your dominate one?"

She doesn't waste time. She shifts into a large wolf. She is a deep red. But then she shifts into a large Kodiak bear. Taking up almost all of the space here.

Warrior Princess Chapter 44

6 Days until the War

Samanthas POV

"That is amazing. Most hybrids can only shift into their dominate animal." I say and she shifts back. Josh hands her his shirt to put on and she blushes a deep red at him only wearing pants.

"Alright, you'll heal just fine." Doc says. I almost forgot he was here looking at Jason.

"Jason, how are you feeling?" I asked him. He nods but you can see he's holding in the pain.

"Nothing that wont heal soon."

I nod. "Alright. So Im going to be setting up a check in station. I want you all to relax. Make yourselves at home. When you are checking in please let us know how many people are with you, how many bedrooms you will need, if you have any need of clothing, or medical necessities. We have a full-blown hospital on our grounds. Trust me I know" I say looking directly at Doc and Kasen and the laugh.

"Yes, my Queen and I do hope you stay away for at least another couple of weeks. We love you dearly but it has been nice not having to worry about stitching you up." Everyone looks at me with questions except my family.

"Hey, don't look at me. Theo is the one that put me in the hospital last time." I say.

"Hey, that's not fair. I already apologized!" He said.

- "And no to be clear I was the one that put you there last time." Jake said.
- "Jeez guys. You're going to make everyone think some bad things here." I say with a laugh.
- "All is good everyone. We Found Theo trespassing on our land. I apparently stole his bachelor pad cave and it made him mad. I kicked his a*s though." I say giving him a noogie.
- "And Jake didn't mean any of it. He had been spelled." I say with a shrug.
- "Well, atleast it will never be dull here." Anna says.
- "Mommy!" Shawn says running up to me. "The mac in Cheese is smoking!" Crap... Well, that's just...Wait did he call me mommy?
- 'Yes, he did. My heart!' Akira said. Kasen smiled.
- 'Kasen, he called me mommy!' I linked him and he opened up his bond with me and I felt every ounce of love pouring out of him.
- "Oh my god yall. You're suffocating us in here with all your Love and Sap!" Gemma said with a chuckle.
- "Let's go fix the mac n cheese huh little man?" I ask. He takes my hand and I turn around.
- "Is anyone else here hungry? Lunch is going to be served in the dining hall and most of our warriors eat in there. It is open for everyone to eat there. No burnt mac n cheese though I'm afraid." I say and I hear a few chuckles. A few kids come forward. They look to be the same age as Shawn.
- "Can we have some mac n cheese?" A little girl asks.
- "Sure! We have Lots here!" Shawn says taking her hand and dragging her to the kitchen. I look to my family shocked.
- "Did that just happen?" Josh asks.

"What?" I heard annas voice.

"He is usually closed off. The only people who have gotten him to open up is Samantha and Kasen. That's why they are adopting him." Nods of understanding float around the room and everyone goes off to do their assigned tasks and or eat lunch.

At sunset, we are preparing for our meeting with the Alphas. We've also included Jason, Theo, Duke, Josh and Jake, Marcus, and both my Dad, and Andrew. We have the Lead Vampire, Lead Witch, and Even Anna has joined us. Kasen is starting to get tense. This week is going to be straining on him. On all of us, I should say.

"Sit everyone." and they do as they're told. "We are here to discuss strategy, battle tactics, strength and weaknesses of all of your warriors you have, the strengths and weaknesses of the Bear fighters we will be going up against. I want to hear all of your thoughts." He says.

"I have a thought." I say gathering everyones attention. "For one, he doesn't let women fight. That would make him see us as a disadvantage. Secondly, If the witches agree. Instead of having them on the front lines fighting I think it would be helpful for us if they focused a majority on protection spells. Keeping us safe. That's not to say they can't fight if they don't want to. I'm just trying to think of a way we can use everyones strengths. Vampires you all have the speed and strength. I dare even say your speed is faster than ours. No matter how much I don't like admitting that." I say with a chuckle. Who've come to know as Tiberius, Kasen's friend and one of the remaining royal Vampires smirks.

"Oh darling, it is no secret we are definitely faster. You may have us on size and some strength but id win at a foot race against your mate any day." Kasen throws a pen at him.

"BOYS!" I shout. They both shrink down like scolded children. "You can settle that bet later. Now back to work. Who next on ideas?" Shari, the witch's coven leader raises her hand. I nod at her and she says.

"I like your idea of us using protection enchantments. But we are capable of so much more as well. We have enough numbers to split us in half. Half doing protection, the other half fighting. We may not have physical strength as you both but our magic is equally as strong." That's actually brilliant.

"Dividing the forces and using both sides of that magical aspect is perfect. Any objections on that?" I ask and no one speaks.

"Perfect. Go through your ranks and coven. Pick who would be best for defense and who would be best suited for the offense." I say and Kasen mumbles.

"I'm beginning to think I should just go and let you lead this meeting."

'stop pouting. You're acting like a child. We have a room full of people counting on you. It is not time for fun and games. You're a king and an alpha act like it.' I scold through the link. He looks taken back by my attitude.

'Im sorry love. I didn't mean to snap. It is just we have so little time to prepare.' I link looking down. I feel his anger radiating and I know I've overstepped. Atleast I didn't say it aloud infront of everyone.

I go to grab his hand and he pulls back at first. I bite my lip and look away. Listening to the room full of these brilliant people talking about fighting. I'm so tired of fighting. I am so tired of power hungry assholes. I am so tired of anger. I know stress can affect people in different ways. I know people react to stress in different ways too. I didn't mean to snap at my mate. I didn't mean to essentially challenge his authority.

My mind is running at a million miles per hour right now. Thoughts popping in my head like a boxer practicing on the speed bag. My mind is running at is own pace that cannot be stopped. To the point that I can't even hear those around me anymore. I'm thinking about the war, I'm thinking about my mate. I'm thinking about my new son. Im thinking about my family and friends. Im thinking about the fate of the kingdom. Im thinking about who we will lose and who will overcome. I'm thinking what if this is my last 6 days on this earth. Im thinking what if we lose.

My head is throbbing. I press my hand to my temple and rub it. It doesn't alleviate the pain. The room starts to spin. I blink my eyes rapidly to focus. It doesn't help. My chest starts feeling heavy. At this point, I realize I've stressed myself to the point of giving myself a panic attack. I stand abruptly with my hand to my chest. Everyone stops talking and looks at me.

"Excuse me. Carry on." I say and walk out the room.

"Are you okay?" Jake asks me. Being my beta he can sense when something is wrong. But being my twin he feels my emotions. I'm not stupid or blind to think he didn't feel what I just felt. I feel bad for putting him through that too. I should have shut it off. I should have stopped. I should have calmed down. I should have just shut my brain down. I can't do this. Im not meant to do this.

'Samantha, are you alright?' Kasen links me. Not 'love' not any other term of endearment he give me. It's my name. He's angry still.

I nod my head at him but choose to leave it at that. His eyesbrows are furrowed and his jaw is set and clenching. If I left my bond open with Jake that means I left my bond open with him too. He felt my turmoil, pain, inner battle, and didn't even offer his hand to hold. He's my mate. He can offer a sense of comfort, grounding, calmness. His scent helps but when your mate is really struggling sometimes it takes physical touch. A touch that he denied. I don't know what's going through his head right now. His link is shut off. Whether it is just to me or the whole room I don't know.

Jake grabs my hand bringing my attention back to him. Linking me this time instead of speaking aloud.

'Are you alright?'

I nod my head. 'im just tired. Im going to go check on Shawn and lay down.' He nods his head.

'He's with mom right now. They should be in the gardens.' He squeezes my hand. 'Whatever is going through that brain of yours, just know it will be okay. I don't know what happened, but I could feel it. I'm here if you want to talk.'

I nod and walk to the door, opening and closing it shut quietly after I exit.

'Where are you going?' Kasen linked.

'I'm sorry...' I say. Quickly adding, 'im tired. Im going to check on Shawn and lay down if that's okay.' I state. I was going to with or without his approval. Panic attacks take a lot out of a person. It is exhausting both mentally and physically.

'Of course. You don't need to ask permission. We can talk later.' He says.

'Okay. I love you.' I link and he doesn't respond after that. Ouch. That was harsh. I get what I said can be bad to say to an alpha, but whether you're mad or upset you shouldn't let that completely deter you away from the love you feel for someone.

I start walking towards the garden when I hear a quiet 'I love you too' whispered through our bond. I smile slightly, but I still feel hurt. I feel rejected almost. I know that's all nonsensical bullshit, but that's how I feel. I'm a woman. I overthink everything and I assume too much. Sue me.

I get to the garden and see my mom and Shawn reading. I've noticed he likes to read. It is strange I've only known him for 24 hours and I've picked up on so many of his traits.

"How are you all doing?" I ask and they look up at me.

"We're having a blast aren't we bud?" he of course nods at her but yawns.

"I was gonna go lay down. Would you like to lay down with me?" he looks reluctant but gets up anyways. I hold out my hand and he takes it.

"Are you okay?" My mother knows me all too well. I nod my head and she doesn't push it. No doubt Jake will fill her in later.

We get to our apartment and take off our shoes and coats

"Do you want to sleep in your room or with me?" I ask and he looks so shocked that I asked.

"You mean I can actually go to sleep in your room with you?" I couldn't imagine being so alone.

"Of course. I love to snuggle."

We get to mine and Kasen's room and I cut on the Tv that's mounted to the wall. Cutting on a movie for him to fall asleep to we climb into bed. He lays on his back watching tv and I lay on my side and rub his head. He's out cold in 5 minutes. This boy will not go without love ever again. I will make sure of it.

He is snoring softly and I end up closing my eyes as well holding him close. He may not be blood but he's my baby. It would only be perfect if Kasen was in here with us.

With that I let the heavy pull of sleep throw me off the cliff.

Warrior Princess Chapter 45

Kasens POV

'I think we may have overreacted.' Atlas mumbles to me.

I know we did. There's no thinking to it. It's just when she said it I and atlas took it as a challenge. As a threat to our title. Which is ridiculous because she is my Luna. My mate. We are equals. I am so stressed because of this damn war that im snapping and reacting badly to things I normally wouldn't. I'm normally calm and collected. This is the first time I have ever really snapped from stress. And worst of all I did it to my mate. Our first dispute and it's over a misunderstanding.

She left about 20 minutes ago and I feel her settle through the bond. I know she had a panic attack. I know she was overthinking everything. I know she is every bit as stressed as I am, if not more. She is new to all of this. I've had years of training. Partially why this is the first time I've let the stress get to me. I feel like a total dickwad. I didn't comfort her I didn't help calm her down. I didn't help her through her struggles. All because my pride was wounded. All because I was mad. I know I need to make it up to her.

"Alright. Let's call it a night. We've been at this for a couple of hours now. We have a good start here. We will implement the new training first think tomorrow morning. Everyone is dismissed for now." I say and everyone gathers their things up.

"Everything okay with sam?" My dad asks. I nod. I don't want to say no. Because if she wasn't, I would feel it right now. Was she okay earlier? No. No, she was not. Right now, she feels love and content.

"The stress is getting to us all." His face relaxes as understanding flashes through his eyes.

"I can attest to that. I can't tell you how many times stress caused an argument when I was king. Your mother and I butted heads frequently over it. Most of the time over something so silly and or small that I can't even remember it to this day. If it's something small, then it's not worth the fight. You both will fix it. I know you will. Just apologize." He tells me.

"How do you know it was me?" he levels me with a look.

"Alright, Alright." I gave everyone the rest of the night off. I wanted Josh to be able to spend time with his new mate and give everyone else a break. If I'm reacting to the stress right now, I know everyone else is. Everyone else is weathering their own storms right now too.

"Hey, dad. Question." He hums and I wait until the last person has left the room. "How would it look if I asked Doc or one of his Colleagues to be readily available for someone to talk to. Say if they feel overwhelmed or anything."

He smiles. "I think that's great. We can make that happen."

Everyone needs to have someone that they can confide in. Normalizing that is important. I walk to my apartment and take off my shoes, tie, and coat. The lights are off and I don't hear anything. I see a flicker of light under the door to our room. I open it slowly and peek my head in. The sight makes my chest clench. My mate and Shawn are snuggled on the bed asleep.

'Ours.' Atlas says. He offers nothing more, nothing less. Just that one word and all my anger is forgotten. I know I want to fix this when she wakes up.

I look at the clock and see it's 830 at night. I'm betting they haven't eaten yet. With that I shut the door and go into the kitchen and start making them something for when they wake up.

I'm mid flip on the chicken dish I'm making when I feel hands snake around my waist and sparks fly all over my body.

"I'm sorry if I woke you, love." I grab her hand and intertwin my fingers with hers and she rests her head on my back between my shoulders.

"You didn't wake me. I just have a hard time sleeping without you." She mumbles. I turn and look at her. Cupping her cheeks with both hands, I look right into her eyes. I bow my head at her. Something so unnatural for me.

"I'm sorry. I'm sorry for being a d**k. I overreacted." I tell her and kiss her forehead.

"I am sorry too. I shouldn't have said what I said. But baby, please don't bow to me. You're my mate. My partner. You are my king. I want to always see your head held high." She tells me and I smile.

"I will always bow before my queen. I will ALWAYS put my queen and our family first. God woman, What are you doing to me?" I say and kiss her lips softly. I feel her smile against mine and I hug her tight. Her tiny arms wrap around me and I know all is forgiven. I know we will be okay.

"Did we just survive our first fight since being mated?" I chuckle into her hair.

"We will always survive our fights. Always."

I turned the oven off and Picked her up and sat her on the counter. My tee-shirt casually rising up her thighs. I tilt her chin up and kiss her lips gently. I find that it isn't enough. I want more. I need more. I place my lips on my mark on her neck. What looks to be a tattoo with my initials and a crescent moon in the background on her skin. She shivers and I nip at the skin. Small moans exit her lips.

"Quiet now, love. We don't want to wake him do we?" she nods and covers her mouth with her hand.

"Good girl." I smirk and continue my assault on her skin. It still isn't enough. I need to make sure this woman knows how much I love her. How much I crave her. How much I absolutely need her in my life. How sorry I am for overreacting. How much of an asshat that I am.

I grip the edges of the shirt and tug it up. Slowly exposing each inch of her skin. Trails of sparks shooting up my fingertips. The shirt is over her head and pooling on the floor. I grab her breasts with both of my hands. The weight of them completely satisfying. Massaging and kneading them. I lean down and take one puckered bud into my mouth. Biting it gently between my teeth and soothing it with a lick of my tongue.

Her fingers find their way into my hair and scratch my scalp. I groan. I love the feeling of her touching me. It sends a jolt down all the way to my c**k. Tonight is all about her. All about earning her forgiveness. All about showing how much I value her. I kiss my way down her stomach, and she giggles when I get too close to her hips.

"What do you want, love?" I ask her. Her eyes dilate and I can see the love and lust that she has for me.

"You." It's one word, but it means so much to me. One word that drives me forward and makes me spread her knees impossible further apart. Flexibility. So very nice. I kiss one knee and slowly leave feather light kisses up the inside of her thigh. I get to that sweet spot between her legs and lick her clit. Earning a gasp from her. I pull back and eye her in warning.

"Can you be quiet, or do I need to find a way to make you silent?" I ask with a raised brow. She bites her lower lip and nods. I take that as my sign to continue. I repeat the process of kisses on her other leg. When I get back to her center I drag my finger through her lower lips.

"You're so wet for my love." I don't give her a chance to respond before I plunge one finger into her. She groans quietly with one hand over her mouth and the other gripping my shoulders. Finding a steady pace, I add a second finger. She is grinding against my hand begging for more through the link. I curl my fingers hitting that sweet spot every time. I lean down and switch between licking, sucking and biting.

"Kasen, please!" she begs through the link.

'Please what love?' I ask, and she begs me again. Begs me to make her c*m.

I drape her legs over my arms and angle her hips up just right. Reaching up and pinching her n*s and licking her like she is the water that I need to survive. Her taste and her scent driving me wild. It isn't long until I feel her inner walls spasming and tightening on my fingers. She rides out her o****m with my name on her lips. I pull up and kiss her, thrusting my tongue into her mouth so she can taste herself on my lips. She attempts to hop off the counter and starts pulling down my sweat pants.

"No, love." I stop her and pull her up and wrap her in my arms.

"But what about you?" I smile and kiss her forehead.

"Tonight was all about you. I needed to show you how sorry I was. I needed you to know how loved you are. I needed you to feel what I feel for you." She smiles and kisses my cheek.

"I already know. And just so you know. All is forgiven. You have to do more than that to drive me away. You're stuck with me for the rest of your days, my king." She tells me. I squeeze her in my arms and we eat the food I cooked and then go climb in bed. The three of us huddled close.

I woke up the next morning to Shawn snuggled up to me watching cartoons on the TV. I turned my head to find my mate not in the bed. Shawn had a black wolf plushie wrapped in his arms. Sam had taken him to one of the local shops that we have on the territory and he was instantly drawn to it.

'He's drawn to it because we are his family. He is mine.' Atlas takes every chance he can to tell me and everyone that.

"Where is mommy at?" He asked, my heart clenching at him calling her mommy. That's a right little man. Almost as if reading his thoughts, she walked through the door carrying a tray of pancakes, fruit, coffee, and juice.

"For my handsome men." she said. We dug into the food, and Sam asked. "What's on the docket for today?" I took her hand and kissed her knuckles.

"Well, first of all we have morning training. Then we do need to catch up on some paperwork. Shawn has school, so we drop him off." He groans at the mention of school.

"Hey bud, we all have to learn new things. I promise after school, we can spend one on one time just me and you, okay?" I say, and he smiles and nods. Giving me a fist bump.

"After the paperwork, we need to do rounds again. Check on the warriors, check the borders, check on the farm lands, check on the local

markets and then we need to have a meeting with the omegas to make sure that they are all doing okay and make sure there are no requests. The schools we checked up on. We also need to finalize Shawn's adoption. I have the pack's lawyer coming to meet with us and the orphanage." I say. She nods making a mental note of everything we have to do today.

"Well, let's get a move on then shall we?"

After we dropped Shawn off at school, we decided to stop by the orphanage since it was so close. They were so happy to hear that we were adopting him. We had gathered all of his belongings which consisted of a photo of his parents, a blanket with his name stitched into it, a bunch of books, and a couple of toys, and some clothes.

We were walking hand in hand to the warrior's quarters to do our inspection and meeting with them to check for requests, grievances, and or ideas for updates. Everyone bows when we walked in. Those that weren't training that is. That makes me think of training this morning. The way Sam had taken me down with a quick wrap of her thighs. She of course distracted me with a kiss to my neck. Little f*g cheater that she is.

I'm drawn back to my thoughts by hearing a request.

"So we were wondering Luna Queen, and My king if we could potentially start more rotations for the border guards. With the war so close we don't want to risk any spies sneaking into our borders" We had already talked about it privately, but now that it was brought up we knew that our response would be appreciated.

"We were actually going to add more warriors to the roster to do perimeter checks. I know this would mean more hours working, but it is necessary." I say and they bow with smiles.

"We understand. As much as some of us have mates and families we want to get home to we know that war is a dangerous time. We'd rather give it our all to protect our borders and our packs." I nod. "Consider it done. I will get with Gamma Marcus about updating everything and he will get the new schedules out to you all."

After talking some more about how things are going we move on to the next task. Checking on the farmland. We try to limit contact with the human world as much as possible. We grow most of our vegetables and fruits here and all of our meets are the free range that we have here on our grounds. We do trade with other packs to acquire what we aren't able to get here.

Everyone has an important role. No one is less important than the next. As I told everyone in the meeting. We are only as strong as our weakest link. And everyone here is an important link in that chain. I will do everything in my power to protect that chain. Protect my pack.