

Warrior Princess Chapter 46

5 Days until the war

Gemmas POV

There are 5 days until this war. I am feeling so conflicted. I am a fighter. I am a protector. I may not be one of the leaders, but I protect my pack and my family. I love my baby. I love being pregnant and I love my mate. But I cannot fight now. I feel like a part of me is being held back now because I'm growing a life.

This war is taking a lot from everyone, and I feel so selfish to complain about not being able to fight. But if I don't have a part of me then how can I be whole? How can I give my all to someone if I'm not 100% whole and happy? See what I mean? Conflicted.

I lay with my head draped on Jakes chest.

"Can I at least jog the track? I don't want to just be a bump on a log and gain all this weight. I want to fight. I know I can't, but if I cannot then at let me do something. Im going crazy here." I ask.

"I'll tell you what. When we see the Doc today, we can ask him what is acceptable and what isn't how about that?" He asks. I smile and nod my head. He's not telling me no, but he is concerned enough about me and our future pup that he's compromising.

"How do you feel about this war? Finding out that you and your sister are a part of this ancient prophecy?" I ask.

"I'm worried, Gems. I know I'm strong. I know Samantha is strong. But one wrong move can cost lives. I don't want to leave you alone. But it is my duty to fight. I am one of the Betas in this pack. I am a part of Selene's plans to try to save the world. But I am still scared. Does that make me less appealing? Does that make me any less masculine that I am admitting that I am afraid? That I am afraid to die? That I am afraid of losing anyone that I love?" He asks and I take in what he said. He is

afraid. Everyone is. But being a guy that prides on being strong and protective.

“You are the strongest man I know. It takes true strength to admit your emotions. Own them. You are strong. You are loving. You are kind. You will be an amazing father. We will pull through this. I am with you. You belong here. Right next to me.” He wraps an arm around me.

“Say it again.” he demands.

“You belong here.” I repeat.

“Again.” he commands.

“You, Jake Layne, Belong here with me for the rest of your days. You brilliant, beautiful, strong man.” he chuckles.

“I’m beautiful, huh?” he asks.

I slap his chest lightly. “Oh, shut up and kiss me already.”

After a wonderful round of s*x, we showered and got ready for my appointment with Doc. We’re waiting in the ultrasound room. Werewolf pregnancies are shorter than that of a human. They were usually prengnat for 5 to 6 months. Those of royal or alpha blood always have shorter pregnancies.

I was 5 weeks at my last appointment. I am sporting a small bump on my normally flat tummy. I find myself subconsciously rubbing my belly and Jake takes his hand and places it on mine on my stomach.

“Mine.” he says. I know his words mean both me and the baby are his. I smile and nod.

“Yes, we’re yours.” I say and he smiles. The doc comes in and we start the ultrasound. Before the baby looked like an alien but today it’s crazy to see that he or she looks just like a little person.

“So you’re about 6 weeks now. We should be able to tell the gender if we look close enough. Would you all like to know?” I look at Jake and we both nod.

“Yes.” he moves the wave around on my stomach slowly and he hums softly. “So it looks like this little beta will be a baby girl. Congratulations, Betas.” He says. I look at Jake and his eyes are watering slightly.

“I’m going to have a little girl. Im going to be a dad.” he smiles and kisses my forehead. “Thank you, baby.” I smile.

“Alright, so everything is looking good so far. Just make sure you’re taking your prenatal like we discussed.” I nod. “Any other questions for me today?”

Jake doesn’t wait he speaks. “So we know we’re keeping her out of the fight during the war, but we wanted to know it is okay if she trains with us? Not sparring but running/jogging, maybe some small weights?”

Doc chuckles. “It is perfectly fine. Exercise during pregnancy is actually recommended. Just know your limits. Another good thing to try would be Yoga and meditation. It would do wonders for stretching those muscles, reducing stress, and keeping fit. But exercise is fine.” I sigh in relief.

“What about s*x doc?” I choke on thin air. With another chuckle.

“As long as it’s comfortable and you don’t feel pain s*x is completely fine.” You hear him release a breath he was holding and I roll my eyes dramatically.

“Alright, I want to see you back in about 2 weeks. If you have any concerns until then you know where to find me darling.” he says and shakes Jake’s hand and leaves the room.

“So, want to do a little more exercising?” he says wiggling his eyebrows and winking at me. I love this goofball.

I still can't help but be nervous about this war. There are 5 days. 5 days to go to defend everything we know. Our traditions, our people, our lives, our land, heck even people who don't know we exist. There is so much at stake here. I know I shouldn't stress, but who wouldn't stress in a time like this?

Samanthas POV

Kasen and I were at the farm grounds shaking hands, observing everyone in their element. It truly was a wonder the way this pack functions. It's like we have our own world here. We met with our agriculture lead discussing what crops we would plant next season, how our livestock was doing, how the workers were doing.

"We were wondering, with all of the added people here for the war, since there are more mouths to feed, can we have some more help your grace?" Ben asked. He was a sweet man. Roughly in his 60's, he reminded me of my grandpa.

"We will definitely send some help your way. It is definitely not fair to have your workers working overtime to feed more mouths than usual. I will check with those who are not willing to fight or those who have knowledge in this area of expertise and send them your way." I say and he bows and smiles.

"Thank you, my queen. Congratulations on your mating." He said. We continued exploring the area and Kasen wrapped his arm around my shoulders while we walked.

"You truly are amazing woman. You have handled everything I've thrown at you with little to no training. You are doing an amazing job." He says while kissing my temple.

"It's nothing really. I've just done what felt right. What came naturally to me." He smiles but then stiffens. His eyes turn black and I can feel the tension in his body. I take in my surroundings.

'We're being watched, little one.' I heard atlas say in our link. He has taken control of Kasen.

I nod and shift. Clothes I'm wearing be damned. I shake out my fur after I land on my paws and lift my snout in the air. I follow it for a few steps and look back to see Kasen has shifted as well.

'Bears.' is all I say in the link. I felt pressure on my head telling me Kasen was sending out a pack wide link. Since Kasen has the ability to link any wolf in our kingdom that means all wolves on our territory would get this link.

'Bears located southern border close to the farmlands. Follow protocol.' He links. 'Josh, Marcus, Jake, you three and a couple of warriors meet us at the border. Bring as many alphas as possible that would like to join. We aren't sure how many bears there are, but I and Samantha are headed that way now.' He growls out.

'Yes, alpha.' I hear them all reply in unison. We take off in a slow canter following the scent. We're well out of the farmlands now, close to our borders.

'Kasen, smoke.' I bark out. We stop so he can look and assess. While assessing we see Josh's chocolate wolf, Carson's black and white wolf, Jake's Grey wolf, a ball of white fur that is Marcus, Andrew, Duke, and even Theo has joined us. There are about 10 alphas following behind them with their Gammas and warriors. We may have come over prepared with about 60 people here, but this could be a preemptive attack. We just don't know.

'Andrew is Rosaline, Rosie, and Gemma okay?' I ask, and he nods his the red furry head.

'Jake, where is Shawn? Mom and dad?' I ask, and he nuzzles me.

'Shawn is with mom and Kasen's family in the bunker, and dad is with the alphas relaying information.' I relax visibly knowing that Shawn is safe and Kasen licks my snout and nips at my ears showing that he heard as well.

'He will be okay, love.' I huff in response and Kasen shifts standing in all of his naked glory with his arm resting on my furry back.

‘There is smoke ahead. My guess is a campfire. But it could also be a trap as a diversion. That is why I only asked for a portion of you all and wanted to leave the rest to defend everyone else. Now we will not attack first. I have trackers ahead of us. We will assess, then act accordingly. They could be allies but could also be a threat. All we know right now is we smell bears. Theo, do you recognize any of the scents?’ he asks him.

Theos massive brown bear steps forward and sniffs. He growls lowly and the fur along his neck and back raises up. Well, that answers that question.

“How bad of a situation are we looking at?”

Theo shifts back. “I smell 2 of my brothers, and I’m picking up a few warrior’s scents as well. There’s a lot of bears there. The 60 we have here may not be enough. Call re-enforcements. That would be my advice .” Kasen nods and his eyes Haze over.

“We will wait here until more come. Until then prepare yourselves and your men for a fight should we have one.” He says with finality and shifts back into his magnificent wolf. I look to Jake.

“Ready to show some twin terror?” I link and he bares his teeth and growls as a sign that he’s ready. My dad comes up and bumps his head with mine.

“Please be careful, baby girl. You may be a Queen, and you are strong, but you’re my baby girl.” He says with a whimper. I paw at him. Kasen sits next to me and rests his head on top of mine.

‘Really, I’m not your head rest, mister!’ I say and I hear him chuckle in the link. I heard a twig snap and turned my head ready for whoever came out of the woods. I saw the trackers we sent had returned.

“My king, Luna queen.” they said in unison and bowed.

“Well?”

One stepped forward and looked at us. “It’s a good thing you called for backup. There are well over 150 bears there that we could see, maybe more. They have a whole camp set up. They look to be staying there for the long haul.”

I look to Kasen. We still have 5 days. Hopefully. This can’t be the full war. He shares my concern and licks my muzzle. Shortly after the others have arrived. I look and see Alpha Aaron, about 20 more Alphas, their gammas and warriors. A couple of vampires, Shari and a couple of witches, my Uncle Has come up as well with some of his rogue army. Rowan looks like us, but his fur is a slate grey. Borderline black. I walk up to him and he bows his head.

‘You are family, Rowan. I may not know you very well yet, but I would like to. Thank you for coming to help. The word is there are about 150 bear shifters ahead. Up for the fight?’ I ask and his wolf growls lowly and nods his head. Josh and Marcus come up to Kasen and me, and we talk strategy.

“This could be either them preparing for the war, or it could be an attack waiting to happen.” I say.

“They’re not waiting. That’s not like my brother to wait. If he is here there is going to be an attack” Theo says walking up to us. I growl in frustration.

“What do you suggest we do?” Josh asks.

“We attack first. They won’t be expecting it. They are expecting us to be blindsided. They are thinking we are all continuing our normal lives. They won’t be expecting a hit. This hit could be a turning point. We send them a message that we aren’t playing games. That we are prepared.” I say.

Kasen nods, but then he says. “Yes, that could be the case but if we attack now before they do that could alert the council. Then we have 2 battles going on at one time versus the original plan of fighting the bear king then the council.” he’s right.

“While I agree, I have to say, does everything always go 100% according to plan? How do we know Jenson isn’t there with these shifters now helping plan? I Agree with my queen. Attack now. Take them by surprise, diminish the numbers we can while we can. The less we have to fight during the main battle the better.” Josh says. Marcus agrees. There are a few murmurs of agreement from everyone in our circle.

“So we attack now. Are we all in agreement?” I ask and receive a nod from everyone. Kasen gives a low howl to get the attention of everyone here. He linked everyone the plan.

I then added, ‘We will meet back at the castle afterwards. Look out for one another, and look out for yourself. Thank you all for fighting with us today.’ I link everyone and I see tons of furry heads bowing. Theo shifted back into his bear. Standing so tall he easily towers over us all. I step up next to the onyx-colored fur of my mate.

“Be careful, love. I cannot lose you.” I link and place my head against his.

“You won’t lose me, little one. You underestimate me. I know you are a capable fighter, but please take care of yourself. Don’t take on more than you can handle. I keep thinking back to the time I saw you had taken on Theo. You were so close to death. My love, you are my world and I love you.” he says.

“I love you too. Now let’s go kick some a*s.”

Warrior Princess Chapter 47

Kasens POV

We were stalking towards the bear’s camp. Witches, Vampires and wolves all fighting side by side. I never thought I would see the day. We arrive and stay hidden, observing. Our forces have surrounded the camp so that no one can escape. The only way to do that is to kill us all and we will not be going down so easily.

The trackers weren’t kidding, there have to be well over 150 bears here. Some look to be training, some look to be drinking coffee and shooting

the bull. Then there is a group of them huddled around a table and I spot someone familiar huddled in the middle. Motherfucker. I send out a pack link to the warriors around Samantha and me.

“Jenson from the council is here. I want him captured alive. Am I understood?” I command. Multiple ‘yes alpha’, and ‘yes my king’ are spoken. I look to sam and she is crouched low, ready to pounce. Jake is next to her, and so is their father. They really all do look alike except for their eyes. Rowan is next to them, and I swear the genes of this family are so strong.

“Remember love. You will come home with me.” I link her and nip at her ear.

‘Mate is strong. We will win this.’ Atlas growls out.

‘Yes, yes we will!’

I how loudly signaling to all that we are here, and the battle is starting. Some run out, ready for the fight. Not me, not my mate, not either of our Betas, or our Gamma. We stalk our slowly surveying the field. No one expects us to be here right now. If anything they think it’s just warriors and alphas.

Theo has stalked up next to us. We have one target in mind. That is those at that table. I’ve got my sights set on one weasly councilman who hasn’t noticed us yet in his frantic search of what’s going on. I hate charging into a battle. If you go too fast, you make mistakes.

The superiors at the table have noticed our slow descend. They all shift and charge at us. I give the signal to break off and it’s time to fight.

Jenson notices me and growls at me. ‘So it seems that the mighty King has figured it out.’ I hear in the link. I don’t respond. Only bare my teeth, and raise my hackles.

We start circling each other, and I notice his wolf is small for someone supposedly in the council. He has a limp in his hind leg. He tries to hide it

but unsuccessfully. This will be easy. He makes the first move and lunges for my neck. He can't think it will be that easy, can he?

I twist out of the way and sink my teeth into his hip. Biting deep into the side with the limp causing even further damage. He struggles to get out of my grip. His paw manages to catch me by surprise and gets my muzzle. With a yelp I drop him and he falls to the ground. Without giving him a chance to stand I pin him with my paws and grip his neck. This really was too easy.

'SUBMIT now.' he struggles, looking for ways out of my grasp.

'Come on Jenson, you and I both know you can't get out of this. Submit now or I will break your neck.' A weak man like him who betrays his own kind to side with the enemy is clearly afraid of death.

He wants to find any way possible to stay in power. And as I suspected he submits with a whimper, shifting back. I call a warrior over and have him cuffed with silver and dosed with wolfsbane.

I assess the field again. These bears are strong, but we are stronger. I spy Theo fighting with an equally large bear. I sense the power rolling off of both of them and it must be one of his brothers. He's holding his own.

'Mate. Look for mate.' Atlas commands out.

My eyes scan until I find her. She is with Jake taking on a bear shifter. He is large and just like Theo, radiates power. It must be the other brother. It's mesmerizing how they work in unison. Each knowing the move their twin will make before they make it. They seem to be doing well before they are ambushed from behind. Such a cowardly move.

Before I know it my paws are moving. Jake howls out in pain as the bear that snuck up on them sinks his fangs into his leg. Sam, being his twin felt his pain. She shuddered leaving her vulnerable for an attack. I have to make a decision, protect my mate, or save her brother from being

killed. My paws can't move fast enough. Pushing faster than I've ever run before.

'My king, protect my daughter.' David commands. I don't correct him on it.

He lunges at the bear grabbing it by the back of the neck using his weight to pull the bear off of his son. Sam is laying on the ground whimpering from the pain she felt from Jake. Being a twin and having the power can be a gift, but it can also be a burden and used against them. The prince must have figured that out and called for back-up.

I stand over my mate growling menacingly. She shakes off her pain and crawls out and stands beside me. Snapping her jaws at this coward.

'Are you alright, love?' I link and she responds with a growl. A growl so low that even I feel sorry for this fucker. No, I don't actually.

We lunge at the same time. I go for his neck and Sam goes for his belly. Weak points that we know will deliver kill shots. He catches me with a few sipes of his massive paws. I compartmentalize the pain and keep biting. He decides to buck like a wild horse trying to shake us off. Standing on his hind legs and swiping wildly.

'I have an idea. Distract him.' she says. I trust her.

I let go of his neck and back up growling and snapping. He takes the bait and takes a step forward and Sam comes up from behind and latches onto the underside of his neck. He lands on all fours and thrashes around. She doesn't let go though. His jaws are locked and her paws dig into his stomach. He's losing blood, a lot of it.

I jump in and grip his neck from the side and pull opposite of her. We pull as hard as we can until I tear out whatever chunk I have between my teeth. He collapses to the ground and the weight of him lands on Sam. I hear her whines and grip the back of her neck like a mother would her pup and pull her out. I check her over for injuries and see nothing that won't heal by the end of the night.

Assessing around, I see there is only a couple of fights left. One major fight left. That is Theo and his brother. Everyone else has either surrendered or been killed. I stalk over to assist him and he growls.

‘This is my fight.’ I nod in understanding.

Theo shifts back and speaks. “Why, brother? You know he is losing his mind. He is power hungry. The world cannot function properly like this. What he is suggesting is Genocide.” His brother shifts back and I spot the resemblance.

“You are the traitor Theo! You are siding with these mutts? Why, when we can have all the power in the world?” multiple growls sound around.

“No one needs that much power. That is too much power for one person to handle. Not to mention all the innocent lives you and everyone else have already killed. How many more have to die before you realize what you’re doing is wrong?” he shouts.

His brother scoffs. “As many as it will take. We will take this kingdom like we did all the others.” Vampires and witches both step forward.

“You killed women and Children. Infants just pulled from their mother’s womb. Can you justify me that?” Shari yelled. Anger leaking out of her. This psycho has killed innocent children, babies even. There is no justification for that.

“Brother, tell me you didn’t!” Theo yelled on the verge of tears.

“Oh, he did. Because it was my niece. My sister was in labor when you attacked the witch’s coven. She didn’t even get to hold her newborn before you ripped her from the nurse’s arms and shoved a blade into the newborn’s heart! You think I wouldn’t forget your face? You think I wouldn’t forget the screams and cries I heard?” she said throwing a ball of fire towards him. There is no saving his soul. Theo’s face contorts in anger.

“You deserve every bit of a slow death. Slow and painful, but this world doesn’t need you in it a minute more.” He says charging at him shifting halfway there. He pounces on him. Pure muscle colliding together. Theo is fighting with everything he has.

I sit on my hind legs and Sam whimpers. I look into our bond and feel her sorrow. I feel her heart breaking for those who have lost their lives and those who have lost their families. I feel her heart breaking for Shari. My heart breaks for Shari.

Sam walks up to her and sits beside her. I see her shoulders shaking. Her body convulsing with tears and sobs. She clings to Samantha’s fur and lets all of her emotions out. This scene will forever be engraved in my mind. This moment makes my drive to end this war so much faster. I will end this. I will avenge each and every person. I vow it.

We hear a sickening snap and I’m brought back to the battle. Theo has his brother’s lifeless body in his jaws. He walks towards Shari and drops him at her feet. Shifting back he says. “I know it won’t bring them back, but he cannot hurt anyone else anymore. Do what you wish with his body. He doesn’t deserve a proper burial. I am truly sorry for the actions my family has taken.” He says.

She grabs his shoulder, and they have a silent conversation. Tears flow down both of their faces. Jake and David have joined us. I nod at David and my beta and look around. Assessing the how many are wounded, how many lost their lives, how many prisoners we now have. We lost 3 during this battle.

“Gather the wounded and the fallen. We will hold a funeral this evening for them. Let’s go home.” I command into the link.

Warrior Princess Chapter 48

4 Days until the war

Samanthas POV

It has been 24 hours since the battle. The sun is setting and we are at the funeral for the fallen warriors. Their mates and families are all in the front row. The Funeral Pyre has just been lit and it goes up in flames. I've been to funerals for fallen warriors before when I was younger but this one hits differently. I've never cried at them before but I'm crying now. I don't understand why I'm feeling so overwhelmed.

"It's because you are their queen. You feel the loss of your pack members, your kingdoms hurt, you mourn with them. I feel it too darlin' it will pass. I promise. For now, we mourn, send their souls to Selene, and comfort the family. We came through on top for this battle and we will do the same with the war. They sacrificed their lives for the good of the cause and I am forever grateful. Their families will always be taken care of. But you are feeling like this because you share a bond with every wolf in this kingdom. It will pass my love." Kasen says coming up to me and wrapping his arms around me.

"Will it feel like this every time we lose someone?" I ask. I don't know if I could deal with that.

"You're new to this. Yes, you will always feel something but with time you learn to compartmentalize all of the feelings. I know that sounds awful. You will still feel emotion but it will feel like a tug on a string versus a snap of a rope. Does that make sense?" he says and I nod my head. It does. I can deal with a tug. I can't deal with a snap every time.

"Close your eyes and relax for me." I do as instructed and his hands are placed on my temple. He puts his forehead against mine and I feel instantly better. I feel rejuvenated. I feel like I just got a week's worth of rest. He lets me go and cups my cheeks.

"Better?" I smile at him.

"Yes, what just happened?"

He kisses my nose and says. "I gave you some of my strength. It's tricky to do. I've never done it before but I've watched my dad and mom do it several times during their reign of the kingdom." He has been wonderful.

“Daddy, can we go home?” Shawn says and tugs on Kasen’s pants.

“Soon.” He says, picking him up. “We have to pay our respects. We are sending the warriors up to Selene to help guard her in her realm.” It is important for our kind to pass down the legends and traditions we hold near and dear to our hearts.

Shawn smiles and Kasen kisses his cheek. I look at my boys and my heart warms. Kasen is dressed in black trousers, and a black button up with a blue tie. It makes his already icy eyes shine bright. Shawn is dressed in black dress pants, a white button up with a black bowtie. His thick, blond hair combed back like Kasen’s undercut. I rub Shawn’s back and grab Kasen’s hand.

“What do you say we go visit with the families and see if they need anything yeah?” I suggest and my boys nod.

The families haven’t left their place at the funeral pyre since it was lit. I grab the mate of one of the soldiers and squeeze her hand.

“I know I can’t say much that will make this any better but we are here for you. Here for your family. He was very brave.” She nods with tears in her eyes and I look down to see she is sporting a small bump. This pup is going to grow up without a father. This war has taken so much from this pup and he hasn’t even been born yet.

“Has the person who killed him been caught?” I nod.

“He is already rotting in hell, darling. He won’t be able to hurt anyone else.” Kasen says. “I’m sorry, miss.”

Shawn says and she looks at him and smiles.

“Thank you, young prince.” and she looks to me and Kasen and bows and goes back to watching her mate’s pyre. We go talk to the other families and then head inside. Both of our parents are in the kitchen holding glasses of wine and eating at the island. Kasen is still holding Shawn tight. No doubt wanting to keep him close. Rosaline comes up to me and takes my hands.

“How are you feeling, this is a lot to take in your first week being queen.” I nod and smile, but it doesn’t reach my eyes.

“It is. How did you deal with it?” I ask.

“Time. I know everyone says it, but it’s the truth. You just need time.”

I hug Gemma, Andrew, my mom and dad and Jake. Josh and Marcus walk in the room and I pour them a glass of wine.

“Has anyone been down to see Jenson yet?” I ask.

“No. I want him to stir a little bit. I want him to think long and hard about what we’re going to do to him. Let him stew on his own thoughts.”

I nod. “I’m glad everyone here is okay. How are Anna and Elena doing?” Josh says Anna is doing well. That she is adjusting to life here as best as she can. A few of the bear shifters have started talking with the counselors that I had Doc help set up. They went through so much at the hands of that mad man. I felt Akira bristle at the thought of that king and his awful sons. I don’t know how Theo got so kind and gentle. Speaking of Theo, he and duke walk in carrying a sleepy Rosie. Shawn gets excited and hops out of Kasen’s arms.

“Let’s go play!” he says and Rosie giggles. But otherwise goes to play.

“How ironic would it be if they were mates?” I say and Duke growls.

“She’s not allowed to have a boyfriend or a mate. Not until she’s 50.” Kasen growls in return. Oh, the brotherly love.

“Shawn’s a sweet kid. Any lady would be lucky to have him as a mate.” Andrew cuts in.

“Speaking of, we wanted to talk with you all about something. We need Doc here too. But it’s something that needs to stay between us. No one can know.”

Kasen knows what we wanted to talk about. We wanted to know if it's ever happened before. He grabs my hand and says. "Let's go to my office. Shawn, you and Rosie come along." Kasen orders out. He and Rosie skip side by side up the stairs and we all follow behind.

"What if this is something that has never happened before? I'm worried, Kasen." I say and he kisses my temple.

"It will all be fine, love."

We get to the office and everyone is sitting down. A knock at the door signals that Doc is here. He comes in and looks at all of us.

"I guess I'm not here for an injury?" he asks and we shake our heads.

"Kasen and I would like to talk with you all about something. Something we discovered and are curious about." He looks at me with a raised brow.

"Well, I'll do the best I can to be of assistance, my queen."

I smile. "Shawn sweetie. Come here, please."

He looks up at me. "Yes, mommy." he climbs on my lap and I whisper in his ear quietly so no one can hear me.

"Don't be frightened, love. Everyone here loves you. But we want to show them, Sampson. Do you think you can call him out to talk to everyone?"

Shawn looks nervous. "But you said it was supposed to be our secret?"

Kasen takes over. "Oh buddy, it is. But everyone here is your family. Even Doc. I love you and so does everyone else here. It's okay." he says gently. Shawn nods and everyone looks at us confused.

Shawn gets off my lap and I kiss his little forehead. He walks to the middle of the room and shuts his eyes. Kasen grabs my hand and squeezes it. I link him.

'Shawn, Sampson? It is okay. Do you trust me?' I feel his reply through the bond immediately.

‘Yes, mamma.’ Shawn and Sampson say in unison.

‘Open your link. Let sampson take control. Then open your eyes.’ he nods his head and opens those bright ember eyes. Only they aren’t ember. They’re as black as night. Everyone gasps. Shawn, or should I say Sampson cowers for a second and runs to Kasen. Seeking shelter, comfort, and safety.

“It’s okay, son. No one will hurt you.” Then he speaks and it’s such a deep voice it’s hard to hear it come out of a 5-year-old.

“They won’t hurt me?”

My dad comes up to him slowly. “Of course not. We love you and Shawn. What is your name, little one?” he says, Sampson and Jake look to me confused and Andrew, Josh, Marcus and Doc look towards Kasen.

“How is this possible?” Jake asks. Gemma, Anna, Elena, my mom, and Rosaline are silent. Theo and Duke haven’t said anything. Just looking on curiously.

“When his family was attacked. The night his parents died. The rogues went after him. That caused his wolf to bond early. He has not shifted though.”

Andrew squats down next to Shawn. “Is this true little one?” Sampson nods his head. He rubs his head. “Doc, have you ever seen this before?”

He shakes his head. “No, I haven’t. I don’t want to consult with anyone either. Who knows what they would want to do, whether it be take him away, run tests on him.”

Kasen lets out a loud, threatening growl. “No one is taking him. He is mine.” I see his eyes are black. Atlas is in control.

“He’s ours.” I say and grab his hand and he sticks his face in my neck inhaling my scent then picks Shawn up and takes in his. Shawn smells like pine and sage.

“You are mine.” Atlas growls out to Shawn and Sampson. “No one will take you from me.”

Shawn snuggles his face into his chest and I can hear Atlas purring. I place my hand on his shoulder and the address the room.

“You can see why we would call you all here. We discovered this the other day. He hasn’t shifted yet. I don’t even know if he can shift right now. But we don’t know how to go about this.”

Andrew steps forward. “Have you tried contacting Selene?” I nod my head. “With no luck.” he furrows his brows.

“Everything happens for a reason. He was set in your path for a reason. He was meant to be yours. He was meant to gain his wolf early. Nothing happens without reason.” he says. But I can’t help but think, what is the reason?

We said goodnight to everyone and we were tucking Shawn into his bed. All of the things he picked out had finally arrived. With his black wolf plushie in his arms he pulled the blankets up to his chin.

“I love you.” I tell him and kiss his cheek. Running my fingers through his hair.

“I love you too, momma. I love you, daddy!” he says and I see Kasen swell with pride.

“I love you too.” after tucking him in we go into the living room.

“So what now?” I ask.

“We keep moving forward. We have Jenson in custody. I plan on talking to him in the morning. I would like you there with me. We need to extract as much information as possible.” I nod.

“That battle was fought and won, but I won’t allow us to get too cocky with it. The fight was still difficult. We will continue training.” I nod

again. We go to the room and get ready for bed. I slip his shirt on and it comes to my mid-thigh. Stepping out on the balcony I lean on the railing. I feel sparks on my skin as Kasen stands behind me and wraps his arms around me.

“Do you trust me love?” he says and I nod.

“You know I do.” He hums as he trails his hands up my thigh and over the curve of my ass. He leans in close and nips at my ear lobe.

“I want the world to hear me claim you. I want them to hear you scream out my name.” His words send a jolt of pleasure to my toes.

“What are you waiting for?” I counter and he swats at my butt. The stinging sensation driving me further into want and need. I hear the zipper of his pants lower and him positioning himself behind me. Rubbing his hand up my spine. I need him. I need him in me, on me, surrounding me, I need all of him.

“So wet for me, love.” he says dragging his finger through my slit. A soft moan leaves my lips and he positions himself at my entrance. Without waiting he plunges into me from behind. Gripping my hips tightly with me leaning over the railing. I scream out at the sudden intrusion.

“f**k you feel so good, baby girl.”

I start moving my hips encouraging him to move with me. He pulls out and thrusts in again. He leans down and kisses me between my shoulder blades, nipping at the skin. The sound of our bodies slapping together and the moans and groans coming from both of us is the only thing I hear. I turn my head and look back at him. His head is thrown back and his eyes closed and his bottom lip drawn in between his teeth. A sheer film of sweat covers his body and glistens in the light of the moon.

“That’s it baby.” he says and I feel my orgasm drawing near.

He reaches around and thumbs my clit while thrusting into me. Giving me all of him. He applies enough pressure that sends me over the edge and I cum with his name on my lips.

“Oh my god, Kasen!” I shout out and he stiffens as he reaches his climax. Leaning down and resting his head on my back, leaving gentle kisses over my skin.

“I love you.” he says and I don’t respond. He knows I love him. I let everything I feel for him flow through the bond. I needed that. As much as I hate to say I needed s*x, I really did need it. I needed the release it brought me, I needed the intimacy from my mate. I needed the love I felt from him. I needed him. This war will be won not from strength but from the love we all share together. We will pull through. All of us will.

We climb into bed and I fall asleep with his arms wrapped around me. In the morning, we will be refreshed. In the morning, we are back to work. In the morning, we will take care of one traitor and begin our plan of attack. In the morning, this war will take a turn, and you can count on it being in our favor.

Warrior Princess Chapter 49

3 days until the war

Kasens POV

I woke up this morning ready for anything the day throws at me. I look at my mate and she is still asleep. Her face is relaxed and she looks so peaceful. I hate to disturb that, but I know we have things we have to do today. Things we have to do together. I get out of bed and put on a pair of running pants. I go down the hall and peek in on Shawn. He looks like he just woke up.

“Morning, buddy. Want to help me make some breakfast for momma?” he rubs the sleep from his eyes and his blonde hair is in a mess. He trudges behind me like a zombie on a mission.

“What shall we make today?” he ponders for a bit.

“Chocolate chip pancakes!” I smile and pull out all of the ingredients we need. We get the batter mixed up and he takes his finger and dips it in the bowl, then splashes it on my cheeks.

“OH, it is on!” I chuckle out and grab a handful of flour and hold out my hand and blow it on him.

“How did a snowman get in here?” I ask. We start making breakfast and I feel hands snake around my waist.

“Morning, love.” Her sweet voice sends chills down my spine. I grab her hand that’s resting on my stomach and squeeze it.

“Look at all of this. Do I get to join in on the fun?” she asks. I look to Shawn and he looks at me. I nod and he takes the batter and smears it on her cheeks! She squeals from the shock of it all then narrows her eyes playfully at us.

Licking her fingers, she says, “Oh, this is delicious. It’s a shame I’m wearing it instead of making pancakes with it.” She kisses my cheek then shawns.

“Let’s go get washed up for breakfast, while daddy finishes up in here.” I like the sound of that. Atlas likes it too from the way he’s drooling over them. They are my family.

As im plating everything and setting the table Sam and Shawn come out washes, dressed, and wearing smiles.

“So, we have some things we need to take care of today. Do you want to hang out with your Grandmas or Auntie Gemma?” Sam asks.

“Gemma and uncle Jake!” I smile. Poor jake won’t get to join us on our interrogation then.

“I think we can arrange that. Then after how about we take you to the training grounds. Who do you think would win in a spar, mommy or me?” he looks between us.

“Ummmm, you’re both strong, but daddy for sure. He’s the strongest wolf ever!” he says in an animated tone. I smirk. Score one me. Sam kicks me under the table and I yelp.

“Well, see about that.” I chuckle.

“Can we see vampires fight too? I heard they’re really fast!” he’s very inquisitive.

“Well, see!”

We get everything cleaned up, and we head out towards Gemma’s apartment. Knocking a couple of times, she answers the door.

“Auntie Gemma!” he squeals and flings his small body into her arms.

“Look at you, handsome man!” Jake appears in the living room. “Are yall ready?” he asks and sam bites her lip and shifts from foot to foot. A nervous habit I’ve picked up on.

“What?” he asks.

“Uncle Jake, I want you to play with me today.” He says with a big pout on his face. Poking his lip out and somehow making his eyes look as big as silver dollars. I hear Jake whimper a bit. He is irresistible with that look and he’s looking like he’s figuring that out the hard way. I link him.

‘If you watch him, I will let you get a few punches in during training today, and ill let you carry out whatever sentence we give to Jenson.’ he smiles at that and nods. Hoisting Shawn up on his shoulders and walking out of the apartment.

“Oh, what things can we get into today buckaroo?”

I laugh and look at Gemma. “If you need Sam or me at all, just link us. We will take him to training today if you want to meet us there we just don’t want him to sit in on the interrogation.” She nods and hugs me than Sam. She’s sporting a small bump now. Walking out the door with us, Sam asks her how the pregnancy is coming along.

“The Nausea is absolutely awful, but she is strong.”

Sam lights up. “It’s a girl?” she squeals, and Gemma nods.

The girl talk lasts all the way downstairs until we part ways. I grab my mate’s hand and we walk down the stairs towards the basement cells.

The guards at the door bow to us and Sam greets them with a warm smile. She exudes the true aura of a queen and Luna. We get in and Marcus and Josh are already waiting on us.

“Wheres Jake?” josh asks.

“He’s seeing what trouble he and my son can get into.” Sam chuckles out and everyone smiles.

“He really has come out of his shell. I couldn’t be happier for all 3 of you.” Josh says patting me on the back.

“So where are we at so far with the traitor?” I ask. Everyone instantly goes into work mode.

“Nothing so far. He’s been pretty closed off. We wanted to wait for you to do any real interrogation.” Marcus says with a smirk. I nod and open the door to his interrogation room. He is chained to the desk and his eyes have bags under them that are so dark they almost look black.

“Such a beautiful day outside. Don’t you think, my queen?” I ask her and she smiles and cups my cheek. “Yes.” is all she says. Jenson starts squirming trying to get out of his restraints.

“Calm down ‘old friend’.” I say with as much venom as I can. “I just want to talk.”

Although he knows he is f***d royally, no pun intended, he keeps his mouth shut.

“This can go either really easy for you or really difficult. Painless or more pain than you can imagine. Which one do you want to do?” I ask and he spits in my face. I was hoping he’d choose this option.

I get up and open the door for Josh and Marcus to come in. Marcus hands me a box and I set it on the table in front of Jenson. Opening it slowly. He

knows what's in here. He's the councilman for Christ's sake. His eyes widen and sweat beads on his forehead.

I pull out a syringe, a vial of purple liquid, a vial of black liquid, and a vial of liquid silver. I set them on the table in front of him for him to see. I then pull out a knife, a torch, a taser, and a Glock. Keeping it light.

I know the Purple vial will give me everything I need. Truth serum doesn't discriminate. But the black vial, wolfsbane, and the liquid silver will bring him excruciating pain. I want him to hurt. I want him to bleed. Only after we're done with him will we use that wonderful purple vial.

"Have you made a decision Jenson?" I say with a pep in my voice.

"I'm not going to give you anything willingly." I hear Jake and Marcus chuckle in the background.

Sam starts loading the Syringes for me and takes the blade and plays with it. Gliding it against her skin. Just enough pressure to leave a trail of red wherever it touches but not enough to break the skin. Without warning she slams the blade into his hand. Jenson's screams fill the room.

"We were hoping you would pick difficult." She says with an edge to her voice. The way she can squitch off the warmth, and loving side and fully operate in fierce, and powerful Luna queen sends a jolt to my d**k and I feel it hardening in my pants.

"My love, we will have fun later. Right now I am having fun with him." she says like a seductive vixen. I smile and nod.

"Josh, will you move our guest to the hanging restraints?" I ask. I don't use any command. I don't need to.

Without replying he jerks him up with the blade still embedded into his hand. Securing him with his arms up in the restraints, his feet barely touching the floor. Marcus leaves the room and comes back in with a whip in hand. This whip is laced with wolfsbane. Jenson jerks and grunts trying to get away. Doesn't he realize there's nowhere to run? Marcus brings the leather whip down hard onto his stomach. He screams loudly.

“Still nothing, I guess.” I say and Sam takes the blade again in her hands. She brings it to her face and looks at the blood on the shining steel. She licks it off and I have to fight with Atlas to maintain control. I give her a low growl and she smirks at me.

‘I can smell your arousal, my king.’ she links me. Marcus and Josh have both looked away. Knowing better than to test my limits. Not that they ever would. She stalks over to Jenson.

“Let’s play a game. I love games. Don’t you all?” we all respond with a yes. “How about 20 questions. I ask first. How long have you been working against your own kind with the Bear King? And don’t even try to deny it.” She takes the knife and makes a small cut on his arm down to his elbow. He tries his best to hold in any pain.

“You have nothing. It’s your word against mine.” he says. While yes we saw him there with the bears, we have no hard evidence other than what people saw.

“Yes, yes, you’re right we don’t have physical proof that you were there. But what we do have is a bit more concrete.” His eyebrows furrow.

“What could you possibly have on me?”

I link Marcus. ‘get me the video of Marcy’s confession.’ he leaves the room.

“Where is he going?” Jenson asks.

“Oh hell be back, don’t you worry about that.” Josh takes over the whipping while Marcus is preparing what I asked for. Whip after whip, his screams cause his voice to grow hoarse. I walk to the table and grab the silver vial and load it into the syringe. His eyes widen and he starts screaming.

“No! You cant do this! You don’t even keep silver weapons in the territory!”

While that used to be true, I decided to change things up after my mate got here and was attacked. And her history with silver tolerance training

proved to be useful. Our warriors starting going through it and have built up a tolerance to its effects. It still hurts like a b***h but it's not as bad for us now.

Without hesitation, I slam the needle into his shoulder and push the liquid into his body. The sounds of agony leaving his lips bring a smile to my face.

“You know, if you hadn't betrayed your people, none of this would have happened. Now is my turn for a question. How many other council members are dirty?” he pales.

“That's right, I know. I know the council has been funneling money, soldiers, information, and full support to the bear kingdom. What I want to know is everyone with the council going to die by my hands or will some be able to be saved?” he shakes his head. Willing himself to be strong and now answer. The silver flowing freely though his body is weakening him while causing pain at the same time. Sam grabs the wolfsbane and jabs it into his neck. His wolf has gone dormant. I cannot even reach him.

“Your wolf has left you, Jenson. What more are you fighting for?” he hangs his head. His body struggling to stay standing.

Marcus comes back into the room with the tablet. I hit play on the video and Marcy's voice fills the empty space in the room. Jenson picks his head up at the sound of his daughter. But when she hears how she ratted them out he starts fuming. If this was a cartoon, he would have steam coming out of his ears.

“Stupid girl. Stupid, foolish girl!”

I nod to sam, and she brings over the last vial.

“Do you know what this is, Jenson?” he shakes his head. Most don't. It is only something we've developed recently and I haven't informed the council of its effects.

“This here is our version of a truth Serum. I think it will prove effective today. But I have a special guest I want in the room before I give you a dose.” I say as a knock sounds on the door.

“Come in!” I say and Duke and Theo come in hand in hand. This is the breaking point for him.

“NO!” he screams.

“I knew your father should have killed you when he had the chance!

“I knew he should have eliminated you. You’re a traitor!” he screams, and Duke has had enough of him bad mouthing his mate. His eye darkens and he surges forward and grips Jenson’s throat tightly.

“If anyone is a traitor, it’s you. You worthless, pompous a*****e!” Growling threateningly and baring his teeth with his canines extended. I place my hand on his shoulder and he jerks back. Theo grabs the back of his neck and rubs it.

“Calm down, mate. He can’t hurt me. No one can.” With that Duke calms down. Jenson scoffs and rolls his eyes. I take the needle from my mate and bring it down onto his neck. I step back and let the liquid work its magic.

“Now, let’s get this started shall we?” I say and he looks like he’s in a daze.

“Yes, my king.” he answers in a monotoned voice.

“How long” Is all I ask.

“6 years.” he says.

“Why?” Sam asks.

“He promised immunity and a marriage for Marcy and immunity for myself.” I swear this guy must be stupid.

“You do realize he was going to betray you. He is planning on overthrowing the council as well and then taking the war to the humans. He wants complete and total control. It’s genocide.” He doesn’t answer. Doesn’t show emotion. He looks like a broken man.

“What have you given him so far?” I ask, knowing what exactly what.

“Everything.” is all he says.

We finish the interrogation, and we step out and let the warriors clean him up and get him back in the cell.

“He knew the consequences of his actions. He was going to have his daughter kill me. He was going to kill my family and so many innocent people.” Sam takes my hand.

“I know. He will pay for his crimes.”

We go back in the cell after he’s been cleaned up. Josh and Marcus stand behind me. Samantha steps to my side.

“Your punishment has been decided.” I say. I look to my mate.

“You are being sentenced to death for treason against the Royal family, the Royal pack, and the entire Werewolf kingdom. Your sentence will be carried out tomorrow at Dawn in front of the Pack and all of the allies we have here. I hope when you meet Selene you beg for forgiveness.” I say and he hangs his head. Defeated and full of shame. He has no fight left.

“I’m sorry.” That is all he says.

“It’s a little too late for sorry.” Samantha says and we leave.

“Good work all of you. Well, meet you at the training grounds.” I say and dismiss them. I need to debrief my father before anything else. This has been going on 6 years. I can’t wait for this to be over.

Warrior Princess Chapter 50

3 Days until the war

Samanthas POV

We walked up to Andrew and Rosaline's apartment and knocked.

"I was just about to head out to training. What brings you both here?" Andrew said.

"I wanted to talk to you about what we discovered with Jenson."

He stiffened going into alpha mode. He nodded and said, "Walk and talk." Akira bristled a bit at the command, but we bit it down. He is my father-in-law, the previous king. We were halfway to the training grounds when we were done going over the information.

"6 years. This was going on during my reign. How did I miss it?" he said sounding angry at himself.

"We all missed it, dad. But it's in the past. The war is coming whether we want it to or not. We need to step up our training. Based on the intel we have the attack is going to happen on Saturday. That's in 3 days. We need to focus on integrating the witch's defensive mechanisms into our training. The warriors are doing well sparring with both vampires, witches, and the allied bears." He nodded and patted Kasen on the back.

"I am proud of you, son. You and your mate are doing an excellent job at running this kingdom. Despite everything going on, you have found time to handle your royal duties and prepare for this war and start a family. I'm proud of you both."

I smiled and grabbed Kasen's hand. He has craved his father's approval since he was a kid. He's always gotten it because he is an incredible man, but hearing his dad approve of him as a king is another level of satisfaction for him.

We get to the training grounds and see Shawn sitting on Tiberius' shoulders barking out orders. Everyone has heard of the news of us adopting him and has taken to him well. Shawn has really blossomed

since and it warms my soul. I chuckle and Kasen and Andrew look on with pride.

“He’s got the makings of a leader, that’s for sure.” Andrew said.

“Mommy, mommy, mommy! I got to play with a Vampire!” he squealed in excitement. Tiberius set him down and high-fived him.

“Remember, little one, You are stronger than you know!” he said and I looked to Kasen and he shrugged. We joined them and I bowed to Tiberius. He is royalty in his own right. Josh, and Marcus joined us.

“How is everyone looking today?” I asked.

“Good. I have not seen anywhere we can really improve on. The only thing left is to integrate all of our plans into training.” Josh said.

“I was just talking about this. We need to start integrating the witches defensive mechanisms into play. I want training from here on out to be as realistic to battle as possible without anyone getting killed.” Kasen says.

“I will see to it that it’s done. Also, the alphas have had nothing but great remarks about everything we’ve been doing. They are saying that the warriors they brought with them will be training their packs back home in the same manner upon returning. That takes care of the annual Training program that we run. At least for this year it does.” Josh said with a bow walking off to find Shari to inform her of our plans.

“How are you doing Tiberius? I know we haven’t had much time to talk, but I wanted to check in. I know you and your clan have lost so much already. It has to be weighing on your shoulders. I know there isn’t much I can say or do that would make up for it, but I want to let you know I am here if you ever want to talk or vent.”

He smiles and nods his head. “You truly are a wonder, your majesty.” Kasen squeezes my hand and I feel the love flowing through our bond.

“None of that. It’s Samantha or Sam. So who is sparring with who so far today?” I ask the group around us.

“I am sparring with Duke, You are set to spar with Jake, Your dad is sparring with Theo, and I am going to get your pretty boy mate to spar with this hunk of Vampire.” Marcus says with a laugh.

“That sounds perfect. Are Elena and Anna sparring today?” I ask and he nods.

“They are actually sparring together!” I smile.

“Hello, Mate,” Elena says kissing Marcus on the cheek. “Hello, your grace.” she says to me.

“Gamma Elena,” I say with a smile in my voice. She looks confused. “You are mated to our gamma. That makes you a Gamma. And you’re my friend. You know you can call me Samantha.” I say and she smiles.

“Where does that leave me?” I hear Gemma’s voice.

“Gems, you know you’re not supposed to train.” Kasens says.

“I know, but I am here supervising and providing medical aid to those hurt in training. I just came by to see my best girlfriends.” she punches him in the gut. We all stifle a laugh.

“Anna, how are you doing? We haven’t gotten to talk much.” I say.

“I feel like I’m on cloud nine. I don’t have to walk on egg shells here, or look over my shoulder wondering whether today will be the day I die or not. I feel loved and valued here. Thanks to Josh, and you, and you My king.” I hug her and she hugs me back with surprising strength.

“You know that makes you a Beta female, right? Josh is one of our betas.” She nods and I hear a horn signalling the start of the next round of sparring.

“Well off to find your mate Gemma so I can kick his a*s.”

She smirks. “Just leave his balls alone. I want more kids in the future.” she shouts at me.

“I could have gone my whole life without hearing that.” Kasen says next to me.

“What? I love hearing your sister talk about my brother’s nutsack.” I deadpan. We both burst out laughing. I hear footsteps fast approaching. I take a big whiff in and smell my twin. Just as he is about to reach me, I turn around and duck and he flies through the air landing on his back. Groaning.

“Nice try slick.” he flips me the bird and stands up.

“You’ll pay for that in training today” I laugh and we get to the center of our fighting ring.

“Alright, I want a clean spar.” Kasen says eyeing us both.

“Kick his butt, mommy!” I hear Shawn yell and smile.

“Traitor.” Jake sputters out. “Fight.”

I’m currently laying on the exam table next to Jake while Doc and Gemma look over our wounds. My mom and Rosaline come in and take one look at us.

“I swear it’s like you’re teenagers all over again.” We all laugh.

“Was it like this often in your home?” Rosaline asked.

“Oh yes. Constant bickering, fighting, trips to the pack doctor.” she said.

“Don’t forget multiple trips to my office.” Alpha Aaron said coming into the room with Carson and his Luna.

“How could I ever forget? I was ready to tie them together in silver chains.” Mommy dearest bit out.

“Oh come on, we couldn’t have been that bad.” Jake interrupts me and says, “Remember the time we were training and ended up going too far and you broke my nose, so I waited until you fell asleep and put an entire can of hairspray in your hair and dyed it neon green?” oh how could I forget.

“And then the time I got you back by putting Nair in your shampoo and you went bald for a month? And then poured glitter in your body wash?” I said and Carson chuckled.

“We called you disco ball for a month.” he said and I laughed. I didn’t have many good moments in school, but I always knew that despite how much I and my brother fought or pranked each other he loved me. Despite the whole issue when I left the pack but im not talking about that.

“How is my mate doing, Doc?” Kasen says walking in the room.

“The usual. My queen, how many times are we going to have this conversation?” Doc is like the hard a*s grandfather that you can’t help but love.

“I know, I know, but he started it.” I glared at Jake and thought back to our fight when he tried to pin me by sitting on me with all his weight and snapped on of my ribs because I hadn’t shifted yet. The jerk.

“How is everything going out there?” I ask my mate and he smiles.

“Perfectly actually. The ones that are being protected by the witches defense are immune to all attacks, silver, wolfsbane, even other spells.” I smile. That was the goal.

“Will we be able to defend the entire frontlines?” I ask and he frowns.

“No. But we will be able to get a majority. We are working on recruiting as many as we can to get that percentage up” I nod. I want everyone to survive. I want all of us to come out of this unscathed. I want this war to be over with no casualties. But I know that won’t happen.

“My king. Come quickly there is a visitor here requesting to speak with Prince Theo and you.” I frown. No one should know he is here. How did that even get out.

“No need to bring him to me. I’m already here.” He says and we look and I pale. The bear king is here. On our lands. In my hospital room. He eyes me and smirks.

“You must be the new queen I’ve heard so much about. You are even more beautiful than I could have pictured.” He said darkly. Kasen growled in warning.

“I see you are expecting our arrival. I came to give you an option. Surrender now or tomorrow morning we kill everyone. Including your mate, and that bastard of a pup you brought in.” This time it’s my turn to growl. I let my full authority leak out of my pores and everyone but Kasen bows in respect. I get up, ignoring the pain in my ribs and stalk towards him.

“You will leave his name out of your filthy mouth. We will not be surrendering. We are ready for you.” Kasen places his hand on my lower back and rubs circles to calm me down.

“My mate speaks the truth. We will not surrender. We won’t let you destroy anymore lives.” He sounds so regal when he talks.

“Well, see about that. Anywho, have it your way. All of the lives lost will be on your hands then. That’s a lot of bloodshed. Are you sure you want that?” I go to respond, but Kasen squeezes my hip. ‘he’s baiting us. He wants a reaction. Don’t give him one’ he’s right.

“If you don’t wish to be killed here and now, I suggest you leave my lands now.” He smirks but turns to leave.

“I’ll see you all at dawn.” And with that he walks out and leaves us all in a stunned silence. We had months, then it was advanced to days, then

come to find out we have less than 24 hours. We are so screwed. The door flies open again and Shawn jumps on the bed.

“You’re safe, momma. I’m here to protect you now!”

Kasen smiles and picks him up. “That’s my boy. But it’s my job to protect you and your mother.” I sit up and rub his cheeks and see tears running down them.

“I was scared, daddy. I didn’t like that man. He smelled very evil. Sampson said he smelled powerful but dark. We don’t like him at all.” Kasen takes him in his arms and kisses his forehead.

“It’s okay. I’ve got you. He won’t hurt you.”

I can only hope and pray he’s right. I will give my life to protect him. And this so called king comes in here and threatens my family? Now he’s pissed off the wrong shewolf.

Shawns POV

I was sitting on the chair in the waiting room with Rosie, Uncle Duke and Theo. I like Rosie, she is very nice to me. A big man, almost as big as my dad came into the hospital. I saw Uncle Theo freeze. He smelled of Anger and a bit of fear. I felt Sampson bristle in my mind.

‘Sampson?’ I ask and he says. ‘that’s another bear. He smells powerful. But he has a dark aura. I don’t like him.’ he looks like he wants to hurt us. I feel Theo grab mine and Rosies hands and a low rumble come from his chest as he stands and pushes us behind him.

“Duke, take the kids somewhere safe. Now!” without waiting duke picks up Rose and grabs my hand and we leave.

“Who was that man?” I ask.

“A very bad man.”

Im 5 years old. I know things. I know there is a big war going on. I know that everyone is training for it.

“Is he the leader of the bad guys we are fighting in the war?”

“Yes” is all he says. He is usually very funny, and happy. But Uncle Duke seems to be radiating tension. I don’t like this. I don’t like it at all. I want my mom. I want my dad.

We get to the doors of the hospital and I hear my dad growl loudly. I break out of Uncle Duke’s hands and run towards the room. I feel tears welling up in my eyes. My dad only growls like that when he needs to. He and Atlas are very strong. I just got my new parents. I don’t want to lose them now.

The bad man walks past me with a smirk. I ignore him and run right into the room. Mom and Uncle Jake are in the beds with bandages on them and daddy is holding momma’s hand. I don’t even think I just run and jump on the bed. These are my parents. They are my family. This room is filled with my family.

‘Family.’ Sampson said to me. ‘They are our family. We will protect our family this time.’

I know he was talking about my real mom and dad. How we failed to protect them before. We were just a baby, but I still feel like it’s my fault. I cry. I cry thinking about my new family. I don’t want to lose them. I am so scared.