

A Pack of Their Own

I watched as we were driving away to go park 221

[1,074 words]

Chapter 221

TREVER: "And if I were you, I would fire her. Unless of course you are getting a piece of what she is offering, but if that is the case keep it outside of the workplace!" He says with a raised voice at the manager. "It is only because my beautiful fiancée picked that piece out that we are even in this store." He tells the manager. "I don't want her touching anything that I buy." He says. The manager gets the pendant and the chain and brings them to the register so Trever can pay for them. I see him blanch as Trever pulls out his black card. "What's wrong, never seen a no limit card before?" "Uhh umm, it's just that it's the second one today sir." The manager says. "Oh, good, I hope that the last person was treated better than we were, if not you and this store could have a serious problem." "Yyyess sir." "STACY YOU ARE FIRED." The manager says out loud in front of everyone else in the store.

KESKA: The manager rings us out, the total for that pendent and chain \$2,300.00 dollars "Trever, that's too much I tell him. "Not for you it's not, I would pay 100x that if it was something you wanted love." He says. "Thank you." I kiss him, I couldn't help it. He just smiles. and we head out of the store. We meet up with Dutch and Mackie. "Well how did it go?" Mackie asked me. "Oh, she hit on Trever too, He was so angry he told the manager to fire her, unless he was getting some of what she was offering and if that was the case, to keep it out of the work place, then he visibly blanched when Trever pull out his credit card, the manager said it was the second one that he had today, and then he fired her right on the spot in front of everyone that was left in the store." I told Mackie. "Good she deserved to be fired." I nodded in agreement, and we headed out to go home. The next morning, I am up at my usual time, and I head downstairs, to the kitchen, Sarah starts to scold me again. "No Sarah, I am getting a picnic ready for Mackie's birthday, she wants to spend the day at the lake, so I want to make sure that we have enough sandwiches, snacks, and food to last us the day." I say to her. "Alright, as long as you leave when you are done." She says. "I will Sarah, I promise." "Humph." After getting things set up for our day at the lake I head into the dinning room to get breakfast, and then head down to the training grounds, I want to see how they have the obstacle course set up, because I was thinking of asking if I could add targets to it and have the archery students run it while shooting, it would give some of them a greater challenge. I take a turn at running the big one as well.

MACKIE: When I wake up Monday I just listen to the noises of my house, just to see if there is any change, and there isn't. I guess they will never change. I get up go to the bathroom do my business and head to the Pack house, I grab breakfast and spot the guys, so I go join them to eat. "it's not going to be the usual routine today, so what's the plan?" Trever asked. "I was thinking that after breakfast we would head to the lake." I said. "Then when we get back, I think we will move you in with us." Dutch says. "WHAT! Umm I don't know, I mean I would have to get permission." I said. "No, you don't, you are my mate, and it is plain as day that your parents could care less, so you are going to be moving into the suite with Trever and me. Now if you want your own room, we can do that, but you will be moving in with us." Dutch says. "I agree." Trever says. "I am going to get Keska in with us as well." Trever says. after we put our dirty dishes on the cart, I see Keska come into the dining room from outside. "Hey, where were you?" I asked her.

KESKA: "I went down to the training arena, I took a turn on the big course that they just put up, I like it. But I was thinking **of** asking about putting up some archery targets, so that the students can learn to shoot on the move." I said to Mackie. "That's my girl, always thinking of the Pack." Trever said. I just smiled at him. "I have a picnic lunch and snacks ready for us, it's all in the kitchen for whenever you're ready to head out." I tell her. "Let's grab Liam and go now." She says. I nod. "Hey, little brother, we *are* in the Pack *dining* room, *Mackie* wants to leave to head over to the lake are you ready?" "I will be there in a couple minutes." "Ok." "He says he will be here in a couple minutes." I tell the group.

SETH: I watch as they leave the Pack house, I overheard them, I know they are heading to the lake. I know I **have** no right to ask them anything, I know I screwed up big time, I just want my friends back, I didn't see the manipulation that Jessie was pulling, even when Kes came to me that night at the library I still couldn't see it for what it was. I have a present for both Mackie and Kes, I know it's Mackie's birthday today, and I knew when Kes's was too, but I also knew that I wouldn't have been welcomed at her gathering, you couldn't even call it a party, just like now for Mackie, it's a gathering not a party, but I follow them anyway, I want to give them their gifts and apologize to them both for how bad I screwed up. Everybody knows that the prince is Kes's mate and that his friend is Mackie's mate, especially after what happened at the dance. I will take my chances and just hope that the guys won't kill me on the spot.

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I watched as we were driving away to go park 222

[1,080 words]

Chapter 222

DUTCH: I link Trever, "We are being followed." "I know, just let them come, if whoever it is decides to be a pain we will deal with them then, but we can't stop the Pack from going to their lake either." "Yeah I suppose, but I just hope that they leave us in peace, I don't want my girl's birthday ruined." "Agreed." I close the link.

MACKIE: I open a link to Kes. "I think we are being followed." "I know we are, I believe it's Seth." "What? Why on earth would he be following us for?" "Who knows? We will just have to wait and find out, I just hope he doesn't try to pull any kind of stupid stunt to get himself hurt, or worse killed." "Agreed."

KESKA: It took us a while to get to the lake, as we were walking, but once we got there Mackie pick out a spot that she liked and we set up the blanket and the picnic foods, and snacks. There were a small copes of trees nearby, as we were close to the spot where Corla took me that day with Father. We all changed into our bathing suits and went in for a swim. "Why is Seth hanging around?" Liam came up to me and asked. "I don't know little brother." "it's creepy, with him half hiding in the shadows, it's not like we don't know he's there." "We won't know unless he decides to come out and talk to us." I tell him. "Ok, whatever, but I'm getting hungry." He says. "You're always hungry." I tell him. "I can't help it, I'm still growing." He replies a bit sassily. After swimming a while we get out and dry off and go spread out on the blanket for lunch. Seth gets a little closer, but still in the tree line. "Come on out Seth," I called out. "We all know you are there." We watch as he comes out hesitantly coming forward slowly, I can see he is carrying a bag.

SETH: "I just wanted to give you your birthday gifts." I says tentatively, I don't want to lose my head. "Come on over, no one is going to bite you." Kes says. I move closer to where they have the blanket set up. I hand Mackie the bag. "The bigger one is for you Mackie, I hope that you like it, I wasn't sure about the brand, and I found it online, the smaller one is for Kes." I said. "Umm I need to apologize to you guys, I didn't realize what Jessie was pulling, and I fell right into her trap, and I am so sorry I didn't see it sooner." I say. "I know that just saying I'm sorry isn't enough, but I hope that you will maybe one day forgive me." I turn to walk away. "Seth, thank you, it takes a lot to admit when you are wrong, I appreciate that, and you are right, it's going to take more than just the apology, but that alone is a start, you broke our trust, both mine and Mackie's, I am not going to speak for Mackie, but for me, you will have to work at getting that trust back, I do accept **your** apology." "and thank you for the gift." Kes says to me. "Welcome, and thank you. I will work at earning your trust again. I swear." "Thank you for the gift Seth." I hear from Mackie, but like Kes, you will have to earn my trust back as well." She tell me. I nod and head back to the Pack house and leave them to their day, It hurts that I am not included but I know that I did that to myself. I hope by this time next year I will have my friends back.

TREVER: I just watched the interaction between the three of them, I could see how dejected he was, I wasn't going to interfere, because I didn't know the history between

them, but I wasn't sure that I really wanted to know either, considering he mentioned Jessie. But I was also kind of curious to know what happened between them as well. "Want to share what that was about love?" I asked. She smiled at me. "Seth used to hang out with Mackie and me, going to the range with us, and just hanging. He was curious about where we would go when we left for our Aikido lessons, so I finally **gave** in and told him that he could come and pick us up from lessons, but the afternoon in question, I found him banging Jessie, and he never did show to pick us up, and it had started to snow. Mackie and I rode our bikes home in the snow that night, when we thought that our friend was going to come and pick us up. The next day he gave us a lame excuse that he had to help his dad with some chores." She finishes her story. "Theres more to it than that **Kes.**" Liam says. "Ok, now I really want to hear the whole thing." I say, as she gives Liam a sour look. "He was getting to close to some of the girls at school, whether he was doing it deliberately or just didn't realize it, Jessie was bulling some of them to stay away from him. I stepped into one of them when I caught it happening. I confronted him with it, and he said that I was jealous that he picked Jessie over me." "The fact that he even said that hurt, and it pissed me off. I was already keeping my distance from him after catching him with her, but to have him say that to me, I was just done with him then." She says. "Did it matter that he was sleeping with her?" I had to know. "No, I just wanted my friend, and if he wanted to sleep with Jessie, I wasn't going to put limitations on our friendship like that, even though i knew Jessie would." She said. "What about you Mackie," I asked. "I had no idea about what happened between him and Jessie, until Kes told me well after the fact, no what happened between me and Seth was just as bad, though as far as breaking trust." She said. "what happened between the two of you?"

I asked her.

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I watched as we were driving away to go park 223

[1,146 words]

Chapter 223

TREVER: "He was starting to withdraw from us, he had got a new phone, and didn't give us his new number, and then the day of Adrian's Alpha swearing and Kina's Luna ceremony, he caught me coming home from Nana's and was rather rude, along with a couple of the other players on the hocky team, and after I told him that I had no idea why Kes wasn't answering his calls, which was strange, because he had to pause before he said Kes's name. Then when he didn't get the answer he wanted from me, he

sprayed me with the gravel as he pull away.” “and so, after that I just stopped trying to figure out what was wrong, if he was going to treat me like that, I didn’t need him as my friend either.” She says. I just nodded. 4

DUTCH: “Ok, enough talk about Seth, this is Mackie’s birthday, let’s just finish eating so she can open her presents.” I said. I didn’t want to spoil her day by all this talk about some one that hurt her, and that I just want to go beat the shit out of, but I know my girl wouldn’t want me to do that, even though he deserves it.

WAYTT: It’s Mackinzie’s birthday today, I’am looking all over for her, I know mom and dad didn’t plan anything, or do anything special for her, and Demi didn’t even get her a gift. After her harsh words to me at the meet and great it kind of woke me up to the fact that she was right nobody had paid much attention to her or Kes for a long time. I actually found a book on coding that I hope she likes, but I can’t find her, so I link her. “Hey sis, where are you?” “Why?” “I have a gift for you.” “Whyyy?” she asked drawing out the “Y”. “Because it’s your birthday?” “Since when have you cared about my birthday?” “I know that I haven’t always been the nicest to you, or even a good brother at times, but I have always cared.” “Yeah right.” “I have, I know that I haven’t always shown it, but I have cared.” “You’ve never shown it Wyatt; I will be back before diner.” “But where are you?” “With my mate, and best friend and her mate, and her little brother.” “Goddess Mackie you are being annoying, where are you?” “I am at the lake; I will be back before diner.” “I will see you then.” I tell her and close the link, and just shake my head. “Problems?” Lexi asked. “Not really, I guess I was expecting miracles to happen overnight.” I tell her. “What do you mean?” “My sister Mackinzie and Keska are best friends, and pretty much since Demi and the twins turned 5 or 6 those two have been on their own, Kes turned 16 last month, when we were on the graduation tour, and today is Mackinzie’s 16th birthday, do you notice anything?” I asked her she looked around “No party decorations.” She says and I nod. “Exactly, and in a week and a half this place will be decked out, because I’m turning 18 and it will be my first shift, and a week or so after that it will get decked out again, for Demi and the twins, as their birthdays are just days apart, nothing for Kes, nothing for Mackinzie.” I said. “That is so messed up.” she said. “Yes, and now that I realize just how bad I’ve been, I’m trying to change, make up for things, and all! I’m getting is push back from her. And I get it, she doesn’t trust me not to pull some stunt on her.” I say. “You’ll just have to give her some time, show her that she can trust you, and no it’s not going to happen overnight, so you have to have patience with her” Lexi tells me. I nod.

DUTCH: “Problems, love?” I noticed that she was in a link with someone. “No, just my brother, wanting to know where I am, and being his usual pain in the butt self.” She says. I just pull her into my arms and kissed her softly. I didn’t want her day to be marred by anything negative. It’s her sweet 16th, nothing bad today.

KESKA: “Ok, Mackie, time for presents.” I say, I’m excited for her to open her gifts, I have my phone out and am ready to snap pictures. “So, who’s do I start with?” she asked. “Start with Seth’s, that way it’s out of the way.” I said to her. She nods. She takes the bag and pulls out the presents in it, hands me mine, and open’s hers, “Oh wow, I

wonder where **he** found this?" she says as I snap the picture of her with the box showing "The Build Your Own Computer Chips." Kit. "Well at least he remembered." I said. She nods. The next one she opened was Liam's, "Liam this is gorgeous, thank you." She gives him a hug. "I don't know his name, or I would have added it." He says. Mackie show her quiver to Dutch. "Triton." Dutch says and Liam nods "I can add it, when we get back." Liam says. then she opens the computer that Trever and I picked out for her, between the three that she said were the ok. I took that picture as well. Then the jewelry from Dutch. I took that picture as well, as he put it on her. "now open yours." She tells me. I unwrap the gift he got me, it's a sinew bow string and rosin for it, again it showed that he remembered what we liked. After she opened her gifts, and we went in for a second swim, then we headed for the Pack house.

DUTCH: "What do you want for your birthday dinner?" I asked her. "I am partial to sea food, but I know Kes isn't to keen on it." She says. "Hey, this is your birthday, not mine, if you want sea food, then that is what you should have." Kes told her. "I agree love, if you want it we will go out and you can have all **the** sea food you want." I said. "Yes please." She answered. "where do you want to go?" asked her, "There is this new place, it's kind of a fancier place in the human town where we went shopping that I would like to try." She says. "Then that is where **but** I think I will stay and finish your quiver." Liam says. She smiles at him and gives him a hug. And hands over her quiver. He takes it and heads upstairs. we will go." I said. She nods, and looks at everybody. "Thanks,

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I watched as we were driving away to go park 224

[602 words]

Chapter 224

MACKIE: After I hand over my quiver to Liam, I link Wyatt. "I'm back, and I am heading home to change, Dutch, Trever, Kes and i are going out for diner. So if you need to see me come to the house." "On my way." I close the link. "I went to go change." "I am coming with you." Dutch says. I nod at him. "My brother will more than likely show up, he said he had a present for me." I tell him. And he nods. "We'll meet out front of the Pack house, say in 20 minutes? Kes asked "Sounds good to me." I say. And she nods and turns to go upstirs. I head out of the house and over to our place. Wyatt and Lexi catch up to us jus as we got to the door. I open the door and walk in with Dutch, Wyatt, and Lexi behind me. "Hey Sis, happy birthday." Wyatt says as I close the door. "Thank you." I answer him rather stiffly. "I got this for you." He hands me a wrapped gift. I take the gift from him. "Thank you." I say to him. "Come on open it." He says. I open it and

see it's a book on coding. "I didn't think you knew." I said in a hushed voice. "Of course I know. I care, even if I don't or didn't show it." He says to me. I give him a quick hug. "Happy Birthday Mackenzie." Lexi says to me. "Thank you." I say to her. "I have to go change. The guys are taking us out for diner." I say, as I look at Dutch. He nods. "Have fun." Wyatt says. I nod and head upstairs to change. I put on a nice summer dress with a smocked top, in ombré shades of green. With a scooped neckline that shows off Dutch's present. And we meet up with Trever and Keska in front of the Pack house. Dinner was excellent, we had fun just chatting about nothing and everything, telling stories, and just getting to know each other. The next morning, I got up and started to pack my things, because I knew, that Dutch meant what he said when he said he wanted me to move in with him and Trever in their suite. Kes and I still had our Aikido lessons, we were getting close to going up to our next color, and we were both helping with classes to get some of the orphanage kids into doing archery.

DRAKE: We are a couple of days away from Wyatt's 18th birthday, and I have been getting daily updates coming in for the last week. We have lost several small Packs in the southern part of the State, no warning, no contact, just gone. I have had other reports that some Packs are being harassed more by rogues, I can't help but think that Stone Claw is on the move. I have passed on all the reports to all the Alphas that were here for the ball, to keep them informed and updated. We have had new warriors coming and going since the ball, we have increased training schedules, and we have incorporated archery at the suggestion of both Mitchell and Kes. The volunteers for the communication markings have also been showing up, so that the reports can go faster. I have contacted some of the Packs that have sent reports of increased Rogue activity to see if they need assistance, and what Packs are closest to them that might be able to send help./

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I watched as we were driving away to go park 225

[658 words]

Chapter 225

WYATT: At 10 minutes to midnight Tuesday going into Wednesday, I get awoken by a voice in my head, ("Hey Wyatt dude, get up, and take us outside.") ("Hey, no need to shout please.") ("Had to wake you up some way, best way I know how to do that is shout.") ("Gee thanks.") ("Welcome, now get up and get us outside.") ("I'm going, I'm going, What's your name?") I asked as I shake Lexi awake, ("Timber.") He says to me, as I am getting out of bed and making my way down the stairs and out the back of the

Pack house, and to the other side of the pool before I collapse in pain. I know the first shift is painful, we are taught that from birth, but nobody could prepare us for this level of pain. The cracking and breaking of bone, and the reknitting, I felt like I was going to pass out, but I didn't, I made it through. James was there and he had changed into his wolf Phestus, Janica, and Lexi had both shifted into their wolves and we took off for a run, we were only gone for a half hour and came back, shifted back, and all went up to bed, even though it was my birthday, I still had to be at Mr. Rickman's in the morning, I am exhausted, so I will have to wait to find out about the tingles, but that's ok, because when I have the energy, Lexi won't be able to walk straight.

KEŞKA: It was good to see Wyatt's wolf, he was a big gray wolf, he had some cute markings, but don't tell him I said that he has two white paws, opposite of each other, and two black paws to match, James's wolf was very different color as well, the best way I can describe him, there is a breed of cat called a rag doll, and one of its colors is called blue, but it's a solid gray, dark smoky blue color, and that is what James's wolf looks like to me. Janica's wolf is gray as well, but she has more cream and white in her. Lexi's wolf has more black in her wolf, mixed with the gray of like a normal timber wolf. I would have liked to have gone with them, but I don't think showing Corla to the whole-Pack is a good idea, at least not yet anyway. Next up is the twins' and Demi, then back to school.

TREVER: Thursday after Wyatt's shift, Dutch and I went with the girls to their job in the human town, and while they were at work Dutch, and I decided to explore the place a bit. It was your typical small town, a couple grocery stores, a couple gas stations with bait, the post office, a few bars, a hardware store, and a couple clothing stores each, for men and women, and a Good Will store, **the** city government buildings, as we got to the opposite end of the town we saw a rundown apartment building that had a for sale sign on it. I looked at Dutch, "What do you think?" I asked him. "We could I suppose, depends on how many units there are, and how big they are." "True." I called the number on the sign and spoke to the listing agent. "I am interested in the rental property at the end of Jasper and 5th Street." I said to the agent. "What would you like to know sir?" "How many units, and how big is the biggest, and how small is the smallest." I answered. "All units are **2** bedrooms 1,140 sq. ft. and there are four units per floor, with three floors." "I would like to tour the property, I am standing outside of it now, can you come and show it to me?" "I will be right over." "Thank you."

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I watched as we were driving away to go park 226

[1,214 words]

Chapter 226

TREVER: I hang up the call and Dutch and I walk around the entire building, noting how close it is to a wooded area, we will need to ask about that, if it is private or if it just goes into the forest, what natural wildlife is in the area, and that sort of thing. But I like it. The realtor shows up with the keys and opens the door for us. The place is in need of a serious renovation on some things, but it looks sound so far, but then we just stepped through the front door. This will be a project for Dutch and me to tackle when the girls are at their restaurant job, so we aren't bored out of our minds just waiting for them to get off work. After checking the plumbing and electrical for the building. "I want my people to come and inspect both the electrical and plumbing, if everything is good, and just upgrades are need, I want to put an offer in on the place," "Very good, and when will your people be able to come check it out?" "I can have them here tomorrow morning." I tell the agent. "Ok, what time, so I can make sure that there is some one here to let them in." "They will be here by 9 am." I say. "Very good." "Just one more thing, the wooded area out back, is that private land, or a reserve, or just the woods?" "It's a wind break, which got a bit overgrown, but then it just goes into the woods, but there are some nice hiking trails back in there." The agent says. "Thank you" They nod. Once they leave, I call Barrett. "I need our trades team to be at the Pack tonight, I want them to check on a possible property I'm interested in, in the morning." I tell him. "Where would you be interested in a property up there?" "There is a small three story 12-unit apartment building in the town where Mackie and Kes are working, up for sale, it could be a good transitional space, rehab if you will for both humans and wolves." I tell him, "It just needs to be managed right." "Ok, I will send the team." "Thanks." I hang up the call. Then we head over to the city hall, I want to know more about that wind break, and if it is up to the city to maintain or the property owner. We end up hitting a bunch of red tape with just finding out about the wind break, but as it turns out it does belong to the city, "I would like to purchase that strip of land, if my purchase of the apartment building goes through, that is, and I will have my people manage and maintain it." "Do you plan on doing any changes to it?" "No, I will leave it as its intended and original use, it's just that my people will be taking over its maintenance." "It will have to go to the city council." I get told. "I understand, I just wanted to get the ball rolling." I tell the clerk. He nods his head, and hands me an application to fill out, to give to the city council for my request. I then call Drake. He answers on the third ring. "Hello?" "Hello Alpha, it's Trever, I have some people coming from home, they are in the trades, please inform your people to let them in, and find rooms for them, they will only be staying a couple of days." I tell him. "Ok, is there an issue that I should know about?" "No issue, I am thinking of buying an apartment building in the town, and I want them to make sure that it is sound and that the building will be able to stand up to the renovations, and code updates." "Very well your highness." He states and we hang up. After all that it's time to go get the girls, and head back to the Pack.

LIAM: It's almost my birthday, and there is only one thing that I truly want, and the only person that can give it to me is Kes, and since it is my birthday, I am not going to take no for an answer, she can't say no, it's my birthday after all. I know all the arguments against it, and I also know that with Jessie out of the picture, there is less likely hood of

anything bad, or harsh happening to her, but still, I am not taking chances, I want the blood oath with her the same as Mackie. I'm going to corner her tonight when she gets home from work, and we will have it out, but I will get my birthday wish.

KESKA: Tonight, at work was hectic there must have been some kind of celebration going on for some one important, the restaurant was crazy busy. Mackie and I were kept busy with keeping the dishwasher full almost constantly, and then getting the dishes put away, and when we weren't loading and unloading the dishes, we were wrapping the silverware, but it kept us busy. I was tired when the guys showed up to take us home. I know that we are the ones that are supposed to do the driving, but I just couldn't, and Mackie was no better, so Dutch did the driving, and Mackie sat next to him, with Trevor and myself in the back seat. At least we don't have to keep the car at Nana's anymore. We walked into the Pack house and Liam was there waiting. "Hey big sis." "Hey little bro, what's up?" "I want to talk to you about what I want for my birthday." "Ok, what's that?" He grabs my hand and his thumb brushes across my scar. "This." "Liam, we talked about this, when your 18." I said wearily. He shakes his head. "I want it for my birthday. I know you're tired, but I am not going to take no for an answer on this." He says and hugs me. Then he turns and heads up to bed. I just shake my head at him, turn and look at Mackie. "What are your thoughts on this?" "Let him, it's not going to hurt him." "*But I have* no clue as to how it will affect father's perception, whether he *will feel* it or not, and I *don't* want *Liam* getting into trouble because of it," "*I know*, I get it, but you will *never* know, unless you try." "Yeah, your right, as usual." She just smiles at me and nods, "*I will give* him the good news in the morning I am too exhausted tonight." "*Copy that.*" Mackie sent back and we head upstairs to go to bed. The next morning at archery practice I told Liam yes; he lit up like a Christmas tree on Christmas Eve. He just about knocked me over with throwing himself in my arms. "When!" is all, he said. "Tonight, when we get home from work." I told him, "Yeah, yes, yes, yes." He pumped his fist in the air with every yes. I just chuckled at his enthusiasm.

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I watched as we were driving away to go park 227

[1,205 words]

Chapter 227

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KESKA: When Mackie and I got to work, the manager call us into his office for a quick meeting. "I know, that neither one of you have had training, in waiting or serving, but I

need you both to take two tables each tonight, Gina call in sick, and I only have the two of you to cover, you will still bus and run the dish washer in between, and I will make sure that we don't set to many in your section, and the rest of Gina's section will be divided up between the other wait staff." He tells us, "Ok." Is all **we** can say, it looks like it's going to be another long night. Around 5:30 a small group came into the restaurant, there were 6-8 of them in total, but they said that they were not together, only in pairs of two. They got spread out across the sections, Mackie got a set, I got a set, and the rest of the wait staff each got a set in their section. They were all wolves, some of them smelled like Ailea, but not all, but different Packs. They were different, but somewhat the same, it was weird. I linked Trever. "Love, I want to let **you** know that we have wolves in the restaurant. Some of them smell like Ailea, I would say about half. They haven't started anything yet, but I wanted you to be aware." I look over at Mackie and see that she was in a link with someone, I presumed Dutch. "Did you let Dutch know?" I whisper to her before we go out onto the floor. She nods. And we step out to go take their orders.

TREVER: After I got the link from Kes I wanted to go to the restaurant right then and there, but Dutch calmed me down, and made me think with a more level head. "Think Trever, They may only be trying to find Ailea, remember, the ones that were sent to find her in the first place were dispatched, they may have just sent in a whole scouting party, if the girls get into trouble, we are a link away, if it makes you feel better, we can head in that direction, but we can't go in guns blazing so to speak, if we spook them, **we won't** be able to have the element of surprise on them, if and when the time comes. **If** they know that there are any royals are around, they might not execute their plan, and we will be stuck waiting longer than necessary." He tell me with a more level head. I nod. "I got you, but yes I do want to head that way, so we are closer **just** in **case** something happens **we** will be there quicker." He nods.

KESKA: I approach the table with water and my pad ready to take their drink orders, I can tell that the one that smells like Ailea, is linking, and I glance around, and I see that there are a few that are in the link, he has to be of rank to **be** able to link so many at once. "Hi, I'm Keska, I'll be your wait person for tonight, what may I get you to drink?" I introduce myself as I set the water down. The woman "I am fine with just water thank you." I nod. "And you sir?" "I'll take a Sprite." "I be right back with that." I head to the back to get the drink, and Mackie comes in too. "Did you happen to see that they were in a link?" Mackie whispered I nod, "one of them has to be ranked, they know we are wolves, but we still have to play it cool, **so** as not to make the humans aware of us." I whispered back. She nods. We fill the beverage glasses and head back out to the floor. I set the pop down in front of the guy. "Have you decided on what you would like to order, or do you need more time?" "We'll **have** two patty melts, with fries." The guy says. I write down their order and head back to the kitchen with it. Mackie is right behind me. We overhear some of the other staff talking about how gorgeous they all were. Mackie and I just shake our heads and turn in the orders. Then we go run the dish washer a few times while we wait for the food to get cooked. When our orders are up we go and take them out to the tables. "There you go, two patty melts, can I get you another water, or sprite?" they both answered yes, so I take the glasses and go get

their refills, when I set them back down the guy grabs my arm. "I know you're a wolf, what are you doing here?" he whisper hisses at me. "I am working, please let go of me." I whisper back. I glance around and I can see that Mackie is in the same situation. "Where **is** your Pack?" "I am not going to tell you that, just know that I am here with permission. Now please let go." I say softly. "I am looking for someone, that is the only reason I am asking." "There has been no one new around our Pack." I whisper. "Please let go, my fiancée will not like smelling someone else on me." "What fiancée your too young to have a mate." "Not if he is 18. I am not going to ask again please let go." "I like your spunk, maybe I will take you with me." Before I could blink Corla surged forward and nipped his hand where he had a hold of me. "What the fuck did you just do?" He says aloud. "I was trying to be polite, but you would not let go, so I defended myself. And I will not be going anywhere with you." I whispered back, and linked Trever. "Help." "Who did you just link?" "You'll see." I walked away from the table. A couple minutes later both Trever and Dutch come into the restaurant, and without waiting they came directly to Mackie and me. "What's going on?" Trever asked, I tell him about the jerk at the table, and what he said to me. "Trever don't let him know that you are Royal, please. The fact that you are a Lycan I think will suffice." I say to him. He nods with a knowing grin; he pulls me out onto the floor and over to the middle of the tables he kisses me deeply. "She is mine, if you think that you can just take her, I will hunt you down, and you will not survive." He hisses at the guy. "Y-Y-You're a-a- Lycan." "Yes, and as I **said** she is mine, and that one, (he point's at Mackie) is his, so if you think that you **are** going to TAKE what is ours, you will not be leaving. Understand?" "I do, I meant no harm, I am looking for someone and I thought that she might be able to help me."

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

I watched as we were driving away to go park 228

[1,262 words]

Chapter 228

KESKA: "Was she able to help you?" "She said no one new was around her Pack, but she wouldn't tell me where her Pack is even, so that I could verify it myself." He said. "My girl is smart, why would she trust you, by telling you about her Pack? you need to respect that she said no one new was around, then no one new was around." "How do I know she or you are not lying?" "She is not the Alpha, of her Pack, but if there would have been any new wolves the Alpha would have made the announcement, and he has not. The only new people to be introduced to her pack is my friend and me, and they are our mates. Do not harass them anymore!" Trever tells him. He nods at Trever and then

gives me a hard stare. "Is there anything else that I can get for you?" I asked, going back into wait staff mode. "No" he says.

TREVER: I take Kes back by the kitchen area, and Kiss her again. I take in her scent to calm myself down, I was about to kill that wolf, and I hate that his scent is on her. "So, what exactly happened?" I asked her. "He grabbed a hold of me and wouldn't let go, I'm afraid Corla nipped him, by this time tomorrow he is going to be sicker than a dog, as the saying goes, and if he should survive then yes he will be immune to her poison, but not if she bites him and turns him to ashes, or ice." She says. I just wrap my arms around her. "What's going on here?" we hear a man's voice behind us. I turn us and see her manager. "I just came to see my girl, and it's a good thing I did, one of your customers **was** harassing her." I tell him. "I'm sorry?" "Yes, he even physically restrained **her**, if she has bruises, I will make sure that he will not be putting his hands on anybody for a good long while." I tell him. "Trevor, calm down, I'm ok." Keska says. I take in her scent again that helps calm me. "What table?" the manager asked, Kes tells him and points to the table. "I will finish with that table; you can finish with the dishes." He tell her. "Yes sir." She answers him. She rubs her hands up and down my arms a few more times, it's ok Trevor. Thank you love." She says. I nod and link Dutch. "Ready?" "Yeah, I think that we put the fear of the goddess in them to not harass the girls again." "Let's go, and let them finish their work." He just walks towards me as his answer, and we leave the restaurant, but we don't go too far, and we just watch. Since I was the one that was volunteered for the royal Pack, I did link Frank. "We may have action sooner than expected." "What happened?" "There were some Stone Claw Pack members in the restaurant where Kes and Mackie are working tonight, and they were asking around if anyone new was seen in the area, and even threatened to take Kes. I made sure he understood that he wasn't going to take what was mine, without giving away that I was royal." "Ok, I will get this to the Alpha." I close the link. We walked downwind from the restaurant found a spot that was out of sight and watched for them to come out. I wanted to know where they were staying, how close they were, we didn't have long to wait..

UNKNOWN: "The two wolves in there are mated to Lycans." "Are they royal?" "I didn't get an aura from them other than Lycan." "Then there is no problem." "Yeah? They're still freaking Lycans, they are going to be hard as fuck to kill man, and it will be even worse if we mess with their mates, they aren't like us, they will go into a raging berserker mode if anything happens to them, which will make them even harder to kill." "They can still be killed. I want her found. I want her back. And if they aren't royal, then there's no worry about getting the royal Pack involved. Let's go, I want to check the maps and see what packs are in this area."

1

TREVER: We had to use our beast's hearing, to catch what they said. I motion to Dutch, and we strip and shift, **we** follow their vehicles to a small shabby motel about 5 miles back down the road. We take note, of where and what rooms they go into, then we headed back to make sure we were there to get the girls.

FRANK: After getting the link from the **prince**, I linked the Alpha. “Alpha, I just got a link from the prince, there was an issue at the restaurant, with some Stone Claw members, he says he took care of it, without letting them know he was royal.”

DRAKE: “Ok, did it get physical?” “He didn’t say, he just said that they don’t know he is royal.” “Thank you Frank.” “Yes Alpha.” I linked Mitchell. “I want one extra set of guards on patrol, around the whole Pack.” “Yes Alpha, but why only one if I may ask?” “Because if this is the beginning, I don’t want to give anything away too quickly, and I want them to think that we may be an easier target than we really are.” “Understood.” I closed the link. I then get on the phone and make a conference call to the few close Alphas. “Hello gentlemen, I just want to bring you up to speed, I just received a report that Stone Claw is in the area, so be cautious.” How do you know it’s them?” one of the Alpha’s asked. “Keska my daughter is working in the human town just a mile or so up from the Pack and they were in the restaurant that she is working in.” I tell them. “She is ok?” “Yes, her mate wasn’t far, and without letting on that he is a royal he made sure that they knew she was his mate.” I tell them. “Well, if the prince was involved, I guess we better make the necessary arrangements, is there anything that you need from us?” they asked, “No, I just wanted you to beware, and pass the information on, any small Packs, should link up, or get to where they can be protected, so pass that on as well.” I say. They all agreed, and I ended the call

TREVER: When we got back to where we had changed we redressed, and I sent a text to Barrett. [Stone Claw is in the area, threatened Kes and Mackie, don’t know I’m royal will keep you advised] Then we went back to the restaurant and waited for the girls to come out, to head home.

KESKA: The night wasn’t as busy as I thought it would be, it wasn’t too bad of a night, all things considered. I hope that that jerk is sick for a good long time. But I also need to tell father what happened, just in case they try to come to us looking for help. We also made an extra **\$35-40** in tips for **the** evening, which was nice, and made up for **the crappy** Stone Claw wolves. An Idea hits me, and I link Mackie.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

I watched as we were driving away to go park 229

[1,234 words]

Chapter 229

KESKA: "I have an idea, but I wanted to run it by you." "What?" "When the time comes, we both know that we aren't going to be sitting in the safe rooms, but how about we take to the roofs and trees and we can shoot from them, like when we took out those rogues?" "Yeah that could work, and they wouldn't expect it, and we wouldn't be scented that easily either." "Exactly, and we could get the best of the archery class in on it as well, it will help them feel like they are contributing rather than being a burden to the Pack." "That would be a confidence booster for them." I nod. "Tomorrow, we will need to scout out the Pack grounds, and make a map to where we can place them, another thought just hit me, some of those that will be coming were forced, if we can help them escape, that would be better for them and us, it would cut their fighting force down, and save people, and lives." "How would you do that though?" "well, if they come into the area that we have our group, and I will have you in charge, you know what Stone Claw Pack smells like, as long as they are not rogues, but other Packs, we can hide them in the deepest shadows of the buildings, and that way we are saving arrows and wolves." She nods. The guys showed up and Mackie drove us home this time. On the way, I outlined my idea to the two of them. They didn't say no, but they didn't say yes either. "You need to talk to your father about that." Trever says. "Father will say that I need to be in the safe room." I tell him. "Sorry love, but I would agree with him." "Look Trever, I know why, and I adore you for it, but this is my home to, I need to help protect it." "And I more than anybody else, can be useful in that way, they won't be expecting what I can do, and even though I don't have any formal training with my powers, I trust Corla, we can help." "I know love, but I just don't want you in danger, or put in harm's way." He says. "I know." I just put my head on his shoulder. Liam is waiting for us when we get home. "Ok little brother, let's go over to the tree line." I say to him. We walk a few extra feet inside the tree line, he takes out a pocketknife that he carries with him. I take the knife and cut my left hand at the base of my thumb, and I cut his, right hand at the base of his thumb. "Liam, my brother, I love you, I will always have your back, if you ever need me I will be there for you." I say as I grip our hands together, so the cuts match up. "Keska, my sister, I love you, I will always stand beside you, and protect you." He answers. After a minute of us holding the cuts together, I let go of his hand and lick the wound, I nod at him to do the same. And just like with Mackie I feel him, he is now bonded to me. I hand him back his knife. "I don't know if father will notice anything or not, but if he tells you to do something you still have to do it." I tell him. He nods his understanding. Then he just throws himself at me, and envelopes me in a bear hug. "Thank you for giving me the best birthday gift ever." He whispers, with tears in his eyes. "Your welcome, but you may not think that way, by the time you reach 18." I tell him. "Oh yes I will." He says with conviction. I just smile at him. "Come on I'm tired." I tell him, and we walk back to the Pack house.

TREVER: I watch as Kes walks to the tree line with Liam, I know what they are going to do, and I envy the little shyster, I want to be bound to her as well, Yes I know we have the mate bond, but until I can actually mark and mate her, it's not the same. I wait for them to come back out, and we all go to our rooms. "I am going to have to let father know that Corla nipped him." Kes says to me on the way up to our room. "Why would you have to do that?" "He is going to get sick, and they can't go to the humans for help, not that they could help anyway, but in case they come here looking for help, he will

need to know, so that nothing is given away, even if by accident.” She says. I nod my understanding. “If you have bruises, he won’t have to worry about being sick, he will need to worry about me!” I tell her. She wraps her arms around me. “I’m ok Trever.” She says. I just pull her closer and take in her scent. It helps calm me. I watch as her eyes glaze over, so I know that she is linking her father.

AV

DRAKE: I get a link from Kes. “Father, I need to let you know that Corla nipped the guy from Stone Claw tonight.” “What happened?” “He smelled that I was a wolf, and he grabbed a hold of me, he wanted to know where my Pack was, and if there was anybody new, or strangers hanging around, and because I didn’t give him the answers he wanted he grabbed me and wouldn’t let go, so Corla nipped him, they may end up coming here to get help for him.” “I will let the Doc know to have the herbs handy, but we will not offer any other help than that.” “I just wanted you to be aware of what happened.” “Thank you, sweetheart.” “Welcome.” She closed the link. I linked the Dr. “Dr. Grant, I know it’s late, but Kes just linked me, she said that Corla nipped a wolf from Stone Claw tonight at the restaurant, she said *that they may come this way* looking for help, the only help we will offer is the herbs for the tea, do you have enough?” “We *have* plenty of the herbs Alpha.” “Thank you Dr. *Grant.*” I close the link with the Dr. I open one with Frank and Mitchell. “I have an update from earlier, from Kes, *she* nipped one of the Stone Claw Pack members, guess he grabbed her, and her wolf didn’t like it that he wouldn’t let go when she asked him to, so she nipped him, she thinks they may come here seeking help, because he will become very sick and they can’t go to the humans, I have informed the Doc., but I needed the two of you to beware of the situation.” “Expecting trouble?” Mitch asked. “I hope not, but it could be the start of what we discussed at the ball. Inform the people that need to *know* what to watch for, and I want to know immediately if it does.” “Yes Alpha understood.” I get from both of them, and I close the link.

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I watched as we were driving away to go park 230

[1,141 words]

Chapter 230

KESKA: Sunday was the day of the party, it was after the twins’ but before Demi’s birthday, both Mackie and I pitched in to help get the decorations up, one of the omegas got hurt in the kitchen and Sarah need some more supplies from the clinic, so I

volunteer to go and get them for her. I was on my way to the clinic when I saw the car pull up to the gate, when they rolled down the window to speak to the guard on duty, I could smell Stone Claw, [Corla, we need to test just how far we can phase.] [Ok.] from where we were I think we made a phase jump about 6 feet. [Good, but let's hope we can do that several times in a row, we have to get to clinic before they do.] [Ok.] Corla was able to phase jump about 3-4 more times, before she was wiped, so I took over and ran the rest of the way, which wasn't to much farther. So, we were inside the clinic before they reached the front door. They had a very sick wolf on their hands, Doc ushered them into a room, he cleaned the wound, and asked how he got it, they lied and said that he was doing some construction work, and he got scratched by a rusty nail. Doc gave them the herbs and told them to make a tea twice a day for a week and it should help, but no promises, and if it didn't then they need to get him to their own Dr. for more treatment. I don't think they liked hearing that but that's on them he shouldn't have grabbed me. I heard them ask if anyone new had joined the Pack recently, and Doc said that we just had a mating ball so there were several new mates that had joined but he hadn't got to meet them all yet. So that just added more fuel to the fire so to speak to get them to make their move or wait till their friend was better, guess we'll find out soon enough. I went to the nurse's station and asked for the supplies that Sarah needed to replenish her first aid kit in the kitchen, which in turn made me think about the first aid kits in the safe rooms they should be checked and made sure that they were full and updated, especially if there could be a war coming. I took the supplies and headed back to the Pack house; I gave the supplies to Sarah. And went back to helping.

SETH: I was just on my way to get some things for my mom at the clinic when I noticed Kes. She was there and then she wasn't, I then seen her about 6' away that was strange, and then she did it again. I watched her go invisible and then she was another 6' forward how was she doing that, I don't know, but I am not going to say a word about it. I looked around, thank the Goddess nobody else was around to see it.

KESKA: Before the festivities began in earnest I went to father's office, I knocked. "Come" he calls out. I open the door and walk in. "Father, I was thinking." "What were you thinking?" "When was the last time the first aid kits, and ration supplies checked in the safe rooms?" "That's a very good question, and one I don't have an answer to." He says. "Then I think you should make the announcement at the party that everyone that has a safe room, should check and update their supplies for their safe rooms, and make sure that they have supplies stored for at least a couple of weeks." I tell him. "And you need to let the Pack know that there is a possibility of a war, so there is less panic from the Pack, if and when it may happen, let them know what measures you are putting in place to help keep them safe." "You have a point." He says, "I will do that, and I will get someone on the first aid kits as well, thank you for bringing that up to me." He tells me. "Welcome." "Love you Kes." He says. "Love you too, dad." I say, it felt strange, to say it, yet somehow right at the same time. And I leave his office and head back downstairs. I grab Mackie. "Grab our map, let's finalize where we are going to put our group, and then we can give them their place assignments at the party." I tell her. And she nods. We scout the houses and pick the ones that would give our team the best advantage with height, and sight. And mark them on the map, and we also are looking at the trees,

picking which ones are the sturdiest and would be able to hold maybe three archers, without them sacrificing safety, and we mark them on the map as well. Once we have everything marked we go find a quiet place to sit and plan. After getting the logistics of placements figured out it was time to go join the festivities. We head into the Pack house; I go to the small Pack office and make several copies our map to hand out to our archers. I know father and James aren't going to be happy with this, but I don't care, this is our home as much as it is theirs, and we will help defend it.

LIAM: The party was fun, we swam we ate, we opened gifts, I got a whole new set of burning tips from Kes, and a book of patterns from Mackie with a couple marked, ha hint, hint, I will make them for her. Dutch and Trever both got me leather and wood rounds, for burning. A new bike from Nana, it had those big fat tires, the kind they say you can ride in winter on, a phone and laptop from Uncle Carson, and gaming system from mom and dad. It was a good day. Some of the kids from the orphanage were there as well, I wasn't expecting anything from them, but they pooled their money, and got me a book on burning, "Becoming a Master Burner." I appreciated it very much. Lissa got a new bike phone and laptop as well, she got a new bead weaving loom from Kes and Mackie got her several packets of beads and a pattern book, again with a couple pages marked, I will have to make sure she makes them for her. Demi got crochet hooks and yarn, and a pattern book from Mackie and Kes, what else she got I wasn't paying too much attention to.

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